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Comedian Whoopi Goldberg

Volume 63, No. 90

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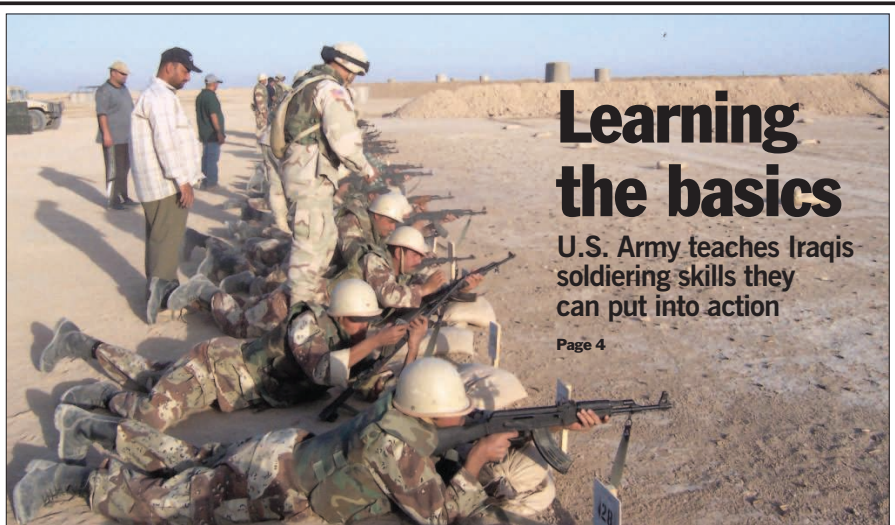
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FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2004

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U.S. failed to prepare for Iraq insurgency, general says

Planners were seduced by Iraqi exiles, Keane tells House panel Page 3



Learning the basics

**U.S. Army teaches Iraqis
soldiering skills they
can put into action**

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JAMES MARTIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army
As range personnel watch for safety violations, Iraqi National Guard soldiers qualify for AK-47 rifles at Baghdad's Forward Operating Base Warrior in June. For two weeks, the training of ING soldiers was conducted by six U.S. Army soldiers. Now the Iraqi soldiers are setting up checkpoints, conducting foot patrols and gathering information on insurgents.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Texas park deaths: A Fort Worth, Texas, park where four tourists drowned was described by a city attorney as dangerous to visitors 30 years ago, according to a published report Thursday.

Municipal officials, warning of hazards in the Active Pool where the tourists died on June 16, recommended that the city refuse responsibility for the Fort Worth Water Gardens unless fencing and other safeguards were installed, according to documents released Wednesday by the city to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram under the state's open records laws.

Most of the Water Gardens was reopened last month, but the Active Pool, where the three children and an adult from Chicago drowned, remained closed and blocked by a fence marked with "Do Not Enter" signs.

World

Morocco terror haven: Morocco — home to most of the suspects in the Madrid, Spain, train bombing — is teeming with some 100 al-Qaida-linked cells that are capable of suicide attacks and pose Europe's biggest terrorist threat, Spain's leading anti-terrorism judge testified Thursday.

Each cell has five to 10 members, "so we are talking about 900 to 1,000 people who could be sought by police now in Morocco," Judge Baltasar Garçon told lawmakers investigating the March 11 attacks, which killed 190 people.

Ireland police corruption: Police officers in Dublin, Ireland, staged a half-dozen bogus discoveries of Irish Republican Army weaponry in a plot to advance their careers, a judicial probe into police corruption reported Thursday.

Justice Frederick Morris found that two detectives, Noel McMahon and his immediate superior Kevin Lennon, were guilty of corruption and had provided testimony "so contradictory and unbelievable that it comprises a tissue of lies."

Morris also ruled that the two officers' supervisors in northwest County Donegal in 1993 and 1994 were guilty of gross incompetence because they made astonishingly little effort to detect the scam. The judge said he suspected that at least some of these senior officers turned a blind eye because the hoax finds of IRA weapons made them look good, too.

Unrest in India: A grenade exploded Thursday in India on a road being used by thousands of Hindu pilgrims on an annual trek to a Himalayan cave, despite tight security against possible Islamic militant attacks.

Six civilians were injured when the grenade exploded near the district commissioner's office in Anantnag, along the route for buses expected to carry 200,000 pilgrims to the Amarnath cave over the next month.

None of the wounded was a pilgrim, although the explosion occurred on the first day of the pilgrimage, said police officer Riyaz Ahmad in Anantnag.

Charges against politician's son: A German state court found the son of a former



Western wildfires: Nevada Division of Forestry Capt. Tim Leighton watches Wednesday as fire flares up in Kings Canyon in Carson City, Nev. Fire burned at least six luxury homes to the ground and came within a half mile of the Nevada governor's mansion, officials said. Four firefighters and a television reporter were injured as gusty winds pushed the fire to more than 2,000 acres and spread a plume of smoke over Carson City. Ten other homes, businesses and outbuildings also were destroyed Wednesday, and about 550 more were threatened by the blaze, which stretched for about four miles along the city's western edge.

Bavarian governor guilty Thursday of tax evasion and sentenced him to three years and three months in prison.

Max Strauss, 44, went on trial in January over his alleged receipt of undeclared payments from a businessman at the center of a scandal that tainted former Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The court found him guilty of obtaining some \$3.3 million in commissions from arms sales, without paying taxes.

Korean missionary: A Chinese court Thursday acquitted a South Korean missionary who was arrested nearly two years ago and accused of helping North Korean asylum seekers escape to other countries, South Korea officials said.

Kim Hee-tae, a longtime advocate for North Koreans fleeing hunger and repression in the North, was arrested in August 2002, according to a statement released by South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

'Crocodile Hunter' allegations: "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin has escaped from another predicament.

The Australian government on Thursday cleared the exuberant entertainer of allegations that he got too close to penguins, a seal and humpback whales in Antarctica while making a documentary.

Getting too close to Antarctic wildlife can bring fines of up to \$720,000 and two years in jail. Had Irwin been convicted, however, his alleged contact would have drawn a far more lenient penalty.

Irwin had denied any wrongdoing.

Afghan fighting: Afghan troops killed two militiamen in a mountain province racked by factional tension, the United Nations said Thursday, prompting an angry mob to ransack an election office and relief workers to flee.

The militia fighters died Wednesday

evening at a checkpoint in Chagcharan, the capital of Ghor province, 220 miles west of Kabul, said U.N. spokesman David Singh.

Singh said it was unclear what prompted the incident, but he said a crowd gathered to protest the killings and chant slogans against the U.S.-trained national army.

War on terrorism

Malaysia probes: Malaysia's prime minister said Thursday his country probably won't send troops to Iraq, but he will urge other Islamic countries to do so.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who also is chairman of the Islamic world's largest political group, said Muslim countries near Iraq should consider sending security forces now that the United States has handed over power to the interim government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.



Badawi

Business

Enron return: Enron Corp. received court approval Thursday to emerge from one of the most expensive bankruptcies in history, but as a shadow of its former self.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Arthur Gonzalez in New York signed off on Enron's plan to exit Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection with no notable adjustments.

Houston-based Enron went bankrupt in December 2001 amid revelations of hidden debt, inflated profits and accounting skulduggery.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Gen.: U.S. didn't plan for Iraqi insurgency

War's aftermath wasn't prepared for, Keane tells House committee

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. war planners failed to prepare for the insurgency that arose after major combat operations in Iraq because they were "seduced by Iraqi officials" who predicted a joyous reception for U.S. troops, one of the Army's senior architects of the campaign said Thursday.

In testimony Thursday before the House Armed Services Committee, Army Gen. Jack Keane, who retired last fall after a final posting as acting Army chief of staff, offered an unusually frank account of mistakes made in planning for the Iraq war.

"When I look back on it myself, having participated and contributed to [the war planning], one of the things that happened to us ... is many of us got seduced by the Iraqi exiles in terms of what the outcome would be" after the war, Keane said.

"We're all going to be treated as liberators," interjected Rep. Ike Skelton, the committee's ranking military member.

"That's correct," Keane replied. "So

therefore the intellectual capital to prepare

ourselves properly for an insurgency was not there."

Keane said that despite continued violence against U.S. troops, U.S. military leaders "did not recognize that we were dealing with an insurgency [in Iraq] until midsummer" 2003.

This recognition came only after "lawlessness and looting in Iraq, targeted violence against us in June that doubled in July, doubled in August, increased again in September and steady-state thereafter," the retired general said.

Keane did not criticize operations in war on Wednesday. But he was frank in his assessment of what he said was lack of planning for the war's aftermath.

"There were very few people who actually envisioned, honestly, before the war what we are dealing with now after the regime went down," Keane said.

"We did not see [the insurgency] coming, and we were not properly prepared to deal with it."

Keane offered insight into what military planners were thinking as they prepared for the Iraq campaign.

"The conventional wisdom was that we would have a stability operation that would be more akin to what we were doing in Kosovo, but on a larger scale," Keane said. "And we would be very much involved in political and physical reconstruction, and maybe some law and order, in the absence of a competent police."

Keane said the widespread looting and lawlessness that occurred immediately after the fall of Baghdad "went on for a shorter period of time than people advertised," but that "it did get away from us for about a week" — in part because the Rules of Engagement that U.S. troops were operating under "did not change quickly enough" for the new situation.

But the "much more serious problem," Keane said, "was being organized improperly to deal with an insurgency."

Keane credited Army commanders on the ground last year as being "quality leaders" who proved to be "enormously flexible and adaptable" in reorganizing and equipping themselves to deal with the unexpected revolt.

"But we could have done far better for



Keane

acted Army chief of staff after Shinneski retired in June 2003.

Shinneski is believed to have been forced out by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld after the Army leader told Congress that pacifying Iraq after the war would require "hundreds of thousands" of troops, rather than the smaller force Rumsfeld and other civilian Pentagon officials advocated.

Rumsfeld asked Keane to take the top job permanently, but the four-star declined for "family reasons," according to Pentagon officials at the time. Keane retired in the fall. He was succeeded as Army chief of staff by Gen. Peter Schoomaker, who returned from retirement to take the job.

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Car bomb in western city kills 10 Iraqis

Militants vow to free Filipino hostage after nation's troops leave

By TAREK EL-TABLAUWY

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Attackers detonated a car bomb near police and government buildings in the western city of Haditha on Thursday, killing 10 Iraqis.

Also, militants holding a Filipino truck driver hostage said they would release him when the last Filipino soldier leaves Iraq, according to a statement read on Arab television.

The statement on the Al-Jazeera network followed a video of the captive, Angela de la Cruz, saying he was coming home soon and thanking his government for agreeing to withdraw troops. The Philippines' withdrawal should happen by the end of the month.

Elsewhere, gunmen opened fire on cars belonging to Iraq's foreign minister, killing one official and wounding two others, an Iraqi National Guard official said. Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari was not in the two-car convoy at the time the attack about 65 miles south of Kirkuk.

Police apparently thwarted an attack in Karbala, chasing a car after receiving a tip it was filled with explosives. Two militants inside detonated their bomb, killing themselves but causing no other casualties.

The violence was the latest in a series of deadly attacks by insurgents since the U.S.-led coalition handed sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government. At least 15 people have been killed since the June 28 handover, 14 of them in a July 6 car bombing in the town of Khalis.



A vehicle sits upside down to a police station Thursday after an explosion in the western Iraqi city of Haditha, known as a stronghold of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime. The blast killed 10 people and wounded 40 others, Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdel-Rahman said.

On Wednesday, a suicide car bombing in Baghdad killed at least 10 people near Iraqi government headquarters, and insurgents assassinated a provincial governor in an ambush of his convoy.

The attack in Haditha, known as a stronghold of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime, hit a government complex housing police, civil defense and municipal offices. The blast also wounded 40 people, Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdel-Rahman said.

Police and government officials have been targeted repeatedly by insurgents, who view them as puppets of U.S. forces.

Insurgents detonated a massive car bomb Wednesday at a check-

point just outside the International Zone, the renamed Green Zone, former home to the U.S. occupation government and current site of Iraq's interim government and the U.S. and British embassies. The blast ripped a crater in the road and killed 10 Iraqis, many waiting in line to apply for government jobs, the Health Ministry said. The U.S. military said 11 were killed.

Hours later, insurgents tossed hand grenades and fired machine guns at a convoy transporting Naveed Gov. Osama Yousef Kashmoula, killing him and two of his guards. Four attackers also were killed in the ambush north of Baghdad.

Elsewhere in Iraq:

■ Saboteurs blasted a crude oil pipeline feeding into a main artery in northern Iraq, halting exports to Turkey and directing another blow to the country's key industry.

■ A rocket hit a home in the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, killing four people and wounding three, police and hospital officials said. A second rocket struck a home in a former army base used by Kurdish refugees, injuring four people.

■ A Saudi company employing an Egyptian driver held hostage said it would stop work in Iraq to stay in his freedom but not pay ransom.

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed and two injured when their vehicle rolled over in northern Iraq, the military said Thursday.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 883 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 653 died as a result of hostile action and 230 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 745 U.S. servicemen have died — 544 as a result of hostile action and 201 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed and two were injured Wednesday in a vehicle accident near Tall Afar.

■ The latest identifications reported by the military: ■ Army Pfc. Torry D. Harris, 21, Chicago, died Tuesday in Tikrit of noncombat injuries; assigned to the 12th Chemical Company, Kitzingen, Germany.

■ Two soldiers died Sunday in a vehicle accident near Hillah; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Brigade, Baumholder, Germany.

■ Army Sgt. James G. West, 34, Watertown, N.Y.

■ Army Spc. Dana N. Wilson, 26, Fountain, Colo.

Iraqi soldiers take pride in learning U.S. military skills

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — Less than two months ago, the 42 soldiers who make up the 4th Platoon of the Iraqi National Guard's Company A, 302nd Infantry Battalion were maneuvering their cars through the traffic-riddled streets of Baghdad just like everyone else.

Now, the ING soldiers are setting up security checkpoints and conducting foot patrols to provide security and gather information on insurgents.

And their U.S. Army advisers, an embedded cadre of six soldiers, are amazed at how far the



Martin

ING soldiers have come so quickly.

"The American cadre is really impressed," said Staff Sgt. James Martin, a U.S. Army cadre member of the 4th Platoon. The soldiers will remain with the 4th Platoon in an advisory role throughout their rotation in Iraq.

"They have a lot of pride and honor in whatever they do," Martin said of the Iraqis.

The training for ING soldiers is similar to U.S. Army basic training. The Iraqi soldiers spent two weeks at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Baghdad, where the 4th Platoon is currently headquartered, to learn basic soldiering skills such as drill and ceremony and keeping their barracks clean, Martin said.

At Butler Range on FOB Warrior, all ING soldiers learn combat techniques and other skills they need to conduct foot patrols and operate checkpoints.

First Lt. Emad Rassol Salam, executive officer for 4th Platoon,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES MARTIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Iraqi National Guard soldiers practice riot techniques in June during basic training. The two-week course was held at Butler Range, Forward Operating Base Warrior. The soldiers also learned skills such as drill, clearing a room during a search or raid, and identifying improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance.

said through an interpreter that the soldiers learned such skills as individual movement, clearing a room during a search or raid, identifying improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance, weapons cleaning and weapons qualification for the AK-47 rifle from U.S. Army non-commissioned officers.

The basic training also covers procedures for proper treatment of Iraqi citizens at checkpoints and for those that the ING soldiers may have to detain, Salam said.

Each platoon has Iraqi women in its ranks — and in uniform — to conduct necessary searches of women during checkpoints and patrols, Salam said. Women earn the same salary as their male counterparts, he added.

The rigorous basic training schedule ran from 4:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the soldiers getting time off for meals and afternoon prayers, Martin said.

The training seems to have paid off, based on how the Iraqi people receive the national guard soldiers as they work in crowded city streets.

"They have wanted a differ-

ence between previous checkpoints (by the former Iraqi Civil Defense Corps) and our checkpoints," Salam said. "They have seen the quick reaction of our people to anything that happens. We deploy immediately in spite of our limited capabilities with communication and vehicles."

The 4th Platoon has spent the three weeks since graduating basic training in on-the-job training, with cadre members accompanying them for checkpoints and patrols. However, the ING soldiers spent Tuesday and Wednesday conducting missions solo, with U.S. cadre members available for backup if needed, Salam said.

Salam said the training is valuable to the Iraqi soldiers. "I thank the Americans for setting up this new training system and teaching us raid operations

"I thank the Americans for setting up this new training system and teaching us raid operations and tactical movement techniques."

Iraqi First Lt. Emad

Rassol Salam
executive officer, 4th Platoon,
Iraqi National Guard

and tactical movement techniques," he said. "Our soldiers opened their minds to the Army sergeants who explained these methods to us, and we gained more knowledge from the American soldiers."

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An Iraqi National Guard soldier signals that he has a weapon jam on his AK-47 rifle at Butler Range in June. The soldiers learned weapons qualification for the AK-47 rifle from U.S. Army non-commissioned officers.

Structure of Iraqi National Guard mirrors U.S. Army

BAGHDAD — Iraqi National Guard soldiers from 4th Platoon, 302nd Infantry Battalion have all the training, equipment and uniforms they need for the checkpoints and patrols they run on the busy streets of Baghdad.

And in a couple of weeks, they'll have military identification cards for their wallets and rank insignia for their collars.

For now, enlisted soldiers in the unit are wearing the U.S. Army-equivalent rank insignia, but ING-specific rank will be available soon, said 1st Lt. Emad Rassol Salam, executive officer for the platoon.

The soldiers are getting three meals a day, whether at the Forward Operating Base Warrior dining facility where the headquarters is, or delivered to the checkpoints they set up in the city, according to

Staff Sgt. James Martin, a U.S. Army embedded cadre member with the platoon.

"The cadre plays an advisory role only. The Iraqis (leadership) run the platoon and missions, and we are here to advise them."

The rank structure is similar to that of the U.S. Army, but the insignia will be different. Iraqi enlisted soldiers will be required to salute U.S. officers and U.S. enlisted troops should salute Iraqi officers, Salam said.

The ING soldiers are assigned their own AK-47 rifle and are issued uniforms, body armor and helmets, according to Salam.

They will be issued ING military identification cards, similar to the Department

of Defense identification cards, by Aug. 1, Salam said.

The differences between the ING and the former Iraqi Civil Defense Corps are immense, Salam said, especially in the screening process for new recruits.

"It was all volunteer before, and people signing up could have been insurgents or Baath party supporters," Salam said. "There were no checks into the background of the volunteers. Now, the Ministry of Defense conducts [background checks] and three forms of identification are required of [potential] recruits."

The ING soldiers are conducting missions similar to those being conducted by their U.S. counterparts, including setting up checkpoints and conducting foot patrols.

While the ING soldiers are issued much of the same equipment U.S. soldiers get, the pay is not comparable.

Enlisted soldier pay ranges from about \$145 per month for a private to about \$200 for a sergeant major, a battalion commander brings home about \$225 each month, according to Salam.

He said he would like to see enlisted ING soldiers earning more.

"If you compare the duty with the pay, it's not enough," Salam said, adding that the salary includes a hazardous-duty bonus. "I hope a pay increase begins in August, especially for the soldiers. There is no [officer] presence at the checkpoints; only soldiers are out there. The soldier is very important. His existence is our existence."

— Rick Emert

Italy-based SETAF set to take over in Afghanistan

Will run main field headquarters starting in October

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The Italy-based Southern European Task Force has gotten the nod to take over the main field headquarters in Afghanistan next spring, according to Army officials.

SETAF will replace the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division, which began its yearlong tour about three months ago as the headquarters nucleus for Combined Joint Task Force 76.

CJTF-76 is primarily responsible for fighting pockets of Taliban holdouts throughout the country and coordinating the ongoing hunt for Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida fighters. Oversight of reconstruction efforts throughout the war-torn country also falls under the purview of the CJTF-76.

There are currently about 18,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. That level is expected to remain steady "for months to come," Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz, director of operations for the Joint Staff, told

Congress last week.

SETAF will arrive on the heels of Afghanistan's historic national elections in October — the first



Kameya

since U.S. forces ousted the Taliban regime in late 2001 — and parliamentary elections expected after the New Year.

Commanded by Brig. Gen. Jason K. Kameya, SETAF is expected to formally replace the 25th ID in March, said Sgt. Maj. Larry Lane, a spokesman for the command. SETAF's top enlisted soldier is Command Sgt. Maj. Lunnasolua T. Savusa.

Designed as Europe's light infantry rapid reaction force, the 2,000-strong SETAF includes the 173rd Airborne Brigade, also based in Italy.

A variety of units will augment the headquarters, including ele-

ments of the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based XVIII Airborne Corps. The 21st Theater Support Command, based in Germany and led by Maj. Gen. Bennie Williams, will provide the bulk of the task force's logistics assistance.

Although final details are still being worked out, according to command spokesman Maj. Mark Wright, units that are likely to deploy include 29th Support Group, 14th Transportation Battalion and 191st Ordnance Battalion.

Kameya and Williams traveled to Afghanistan last week for briefings in preparation for the upcoming deployment.

"There are a lot of lessons learned coming out of Afghanistan right now that will definitely be incorporated into this deployment," said Lane.

The task force is now preparing for field maneuvers and headquarters battle drills at the Army's Grafenwohr training center in Germany through September and October.

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In the army now



PHOTO BY CHUCK LAWHEAD/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Recruits in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, await transportation to the Kabul Military Training center as an Afghan National Army officer conducts a quick inspection. A second center to train volunteers for the ANA recently opened in Kabul, and more than 20 are under construction around the country. The new center will also serve as the Kabul Military High School to train Afghans as recruiters and instructors for the army.

Hassoun arrives home

DOVER, Del. — A U.S. Marine who disappeared in Iraq and turned up in Lebanon three weeks later was brought to the United States on Thursday after six days of evaluation in a U.S. military hospital in Germany, a military official said.

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun took off from Ramstein Air Base on a morning flight aboard an Air Force C-5 Galaxy heavy transport jet for Dover, Del., a day after he was originally scheduled to depart, base spokeswoman Petra Day said.

From The Associated Press



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Iraq to form security force to hit insurgents

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's government will create a new security service specifically geared toward tackling the nearly 15-month-old insurgency in the country, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said Thursday.

The new service, the General Security Directorate, "will annihilate those terrorist groups, God willing," Allawi said during a news conference.

Allawi also said he had asked Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Morocco to contribute troops to the Multi-National Force here to help him secure the country and he announced that he would be going on his first foreign tour as prime minister to nearby Arab countries.

"We would like to strengthen our relationship with our neighbors and we are making this a priority," he said.

The tour would include visits to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, he said.

New service 'will annihilate those terrorist groups'

He also announced plans to visit other Islamic countries, including Pakistan and Iran, which Iraq fought a devastating war with that ended in 1988, and said he planned to tour the United States and Europe in the autumn.

Since taking power, Allawi's government has made clear it intended to crack down on militants who have caused chaos with assassinations, bombings, sabotage and other attacks. The violence has hampered efforts to rebuild and recover after war and years of international sanctions.

The government has passed emergency laws giving Allawi the power to declare curfews and impose limited martial law to curb the violence and has repeatedly threatened the militants.

During the news conference, Allawi repeated his tough stance on tackling militants and said it would not negotiate with terrorists.

He also discussed the Philippines apparent decision to with-

draw its small peacekeeping force early in response to a demand made by insurgents holding a Filipino truck driver hostage.

Allawi said he spoke with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and asked her to reconsider her decision.

The announcement of Iraq's new security service appeared another step in the fledgling government's efforts to tackle the violence and destroy the militant groups.

As part of this effort, the government planned to restore the death penalty that had been suspended during the U.S. occupation, Allawi said. The European Union has criticized that plan.

"We need some sanctions that are up to the scale of those crimes," Allawi said. "That is why the capital punishment issue is still being discussed."

The government is also planning to announce an amnesty for some insurgents, which will be announced next week, Allawi said.

Interior Minister Falah Hassan al-Naqib, standing beside Allawi, said the government had arrested terrorists and criminals in the cities of Mosul and Baghdad in recent days.

Iraq's sparsely patrolled borders, which foreign fighters are accused of exploiting to enter the country, have not yet been secured, but the government is working with the armed forces to change that, he said.

"We have organized crime and we have terrorism. We are working against the two," he said. "You will see some great results soon."

The news conference came after two days of severe violence in Iraq. A car bomb Thursday in the western town of Haditha, apparently targeting police and government buildings, killed 10, including three police officers.

On Wednesday, a car bombing near the Baghdad area housing the government buildings and the U.S. and British embassies killed

10 Iraqis. Insurgents also ambushed and killed the provincial governor of Nineveh as he headed to Baghdad on Wednesday.

In remarks published Thursday in the pan-Arab newspaper al-Hayat, Allawi said his government had arrested operatives linked to al-Qaida and is seeing increasing coordination between the terror network and Iraqi insurgents loyal to ousted dictator Saddam Hussein.

Among the unspecified number of people arrested was the driver of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian linked to al-Qaida, who is accused of deadly attacks and kidnappings in Iraq. Huge amounts of money, he also said, are entering Iraq to fund attacks in the country.

"Over the last two or three days, we have captured a number of crucial figures who have started to fully and effectively cooperate with the investigative and judicial authorities," Allawi was quoted as saying.

Allawi also said millions of dollars are being channeled by Saddam loyalists in neighboring countries to operatives with al-Qaida links in Iraq.

Police re-arrest 6 suspects in Bahrain bombing plot

Staff and wire reports

Bahrain authorities re-arrested six men Wednesday suspected of planning to bomb government and foreign interests, the Interior Ministry said.

News of the arrests came less than a week after dependents of U.S. military and Defense Department personnel began evacuating Bahrain. The Pentagon ordered the move following reports that terrorists were planning attacks.

The six men, most of whom are believed to be part of Bahrain's Salafi Muslim community, had been released June 23 after being detained for one day. An Interior Ministry official in Bahrain said the men were re-arrested after investigators searched their computers and discovered documents on how to make and use bombs and poisons.

Farid Ghazi, a lawyer for the men, told The Associated Press in Bahrain that a seventh man, who holds a British passport, was also being sought after his release last month. The suspect was apparently in Britain.

The unidentified ministry official said in a statement carried by the official Bahrain

News Agency that the seven had been in contact with terrorist organizations abroad and had finalized plans to attack targets in Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

The evacuation of dependents was ordered because of a regional concern about security, said Cmdr. Jamie Graybeal, a 5th Fleet spokesman.

He said the majority of the 940 dependents ordered to evacuate have left. Some stopped in Naples, Italy, on Saturday en route to Norfolk, Va. The evacuation is expected to be complete before the end of month.

"It's difficult for both the families and servicemen and employees left behind," Graybeal said by telephone from Manama.

The evacuation orders are for at least 30 days, and dependents are not expected to return anytime soon.

Graybeal said there has been no change in the force protection level for the 4,500 servicemen in Bahrain.

The base is looking at options to fill the vacancies left by the evacuation, including local hires and possibly calling in reservists, Graybeal said.

The Associated Press and Stripes reporter Kendra Helmer contributed to this report.



LENNY FRANCONI/U.S. Navy

Family members evacuated from Bahrain board a flight for the States after a stop at Navy Support Activity, Naples, Italy. Rear Adm. Daniel S. Mastagni, vice commander of Navy Region Europe, provides words of encouragement to children boarding the aircraft.

Neighbors defend GI accused of abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib

BY CHARLES SHEEHAN
The Associated Press

HYNDMAN, Pa. — Two months after he was sentenced to prison, Spc. Jeremy Svits' neighbors will not accept that he is to blame for the role he played in the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

They say Svits, described as an all-American boy who played semipro baseball for the Hyndman Merchants, has been railroaded by the military command that they insist should bear most of the responsibility for abuses at the prison.

"This is a shame on our country," said Tom Cunningham, Hyndman's mayor for 30 years.

"There's been so many lies... This is not America." Anger is seething in Hyndman, a town of about 1,000 people along the Maryland border.

On Wednesday, about 80 neigh-

bors gathered to demand that Svits be exonerated, that he be reinstated as a soldier, and that authorities issue a public apology to Svits and his family. About 200 people gathered in May to hold a candlelight vigil for Svits.

"Why is a specialist E-4 the only one that's in jail? It's political. This is all political. We're looking at another Vietnam," said Brandon Greise, who went to high school with Svits.

Residents and family in Hyndman, as well as in other communities where soldiers implicated in the abuse had lived, maintain that the soldiers were under intense

pressure from above.

Last month, relatives of Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick II in Baltimore began a T-shirt and bumper sticker campaign, suggesting that high-ranking officials are shielding themselves from blame.

Jonathan Davis, whose son Javal is charged criminally with abusing prisoners, said he is trying to keep the story alive in his hometown of Roselle, N.J.

"I'm doing as many interviews as I can and am holding some fund-raisers for his defense," he said.

"This administration would

like for this story fade away, but we'll keep it alive here in Roselle. This is one of our own."

Seven members of the 372nd Military Police Company, a reserve unit from Cresapstown, Md., have been charged in the scandal, which gained attention in April after CBS' "60 Minutes" first broadcast photos of abuse and sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners.

The Bush administration characterized the abuse as the failings of a few renegade soldiers and promised that those responsible will be quickly punished.



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1st AD unfurls colors back in Wiesbaden

BY LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The 1st Armored Division's colors were uncased on familiar ground Wednesday night when the commander, Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, and a small group of soldiers set foot on Wiesbaden Army Airfield for the first time since the division deployed more than a year ago.

Festive music played over loudspeakers and patriotic banners decked out Wiesbaden Army Airfield's Hangar 1036 as anxious friends and family members waited inside.

During a brief ceremony, Dempsey and division Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush unfurled the 1st AD's flag to the cheers of the roughly 100 soldiers and family members in attendance.

After the ceremony, children waved miniature versions of Old

Glory and played tag as parents and friends welcomed the warriors home.

In addition to the general's driver and his aide de camp who returned to Wiesbaden with Dempsey on Wednesday, 300 soldiers returned to Baumholder, 82 to Hanau and 48 to Friedberg.

About 3,000 1st AD troops have returned, and roughly 12,000 more soldiers are due back by August, according to a division spokesman.

The division was extended for three months on April 19 to help combat a surge of violent uprisings.

"The division is back," said rear detachment Command Sgt. Maj. Maria Echevarria.

"Even though we still have soldiers — that are downrange, they're coming back. This [ceremony] is to say, 'We're coming home.'"

E-mail Lisa Horn at: hornlisa@starsandstripes.osd.mil



LISA HORN/Stars and Stripes

First Armored Division commanding general Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey addresses the crowd gathered Wednesday at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. In a brief ceremony, Dempsey and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush unfurled the division's colors, marking the 1AD's return from Iraq. Roughly 12,000 more soldiers are due to return by Aug. 1.

Gould takes command of 3rd Air Force

Wooley already at new post in Florida

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Maj. Gen. Michael Gould is the new commander of the 3rd Air Force.

Gould, who previously served as director of operational plans and joint matters and deputy chief of staff for Air and Space Operations in Washington, D.C., replaces Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley.

Wooley, who soon will get his third star, already has taken over command of Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

The 3rd Air Force post is the first overseas assignment for Gould, who graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1976. He's a command pilot with about 2,900 hours on various military training, refueling and cargo aircraft. Among his assignments: commander of the 22nd Air Refueling Wing at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., and 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

He's also served as Air Force



PHOTOS BY JEANETTE COPELAND/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Above: A crew chief unveils Maj. Gen. Michael Gould's name on the side of a C-21 during the 3rd Air Force Assumption of Command ceremony July 15 at RAF Mildenhall. Maj. Gen. Gould replaces Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley as 3rd Air Force commander. Below: Gould addresses the audience at the change of command ceremony Thursday.

aide to the president, from 1990-1992, and a coach at the academy in his 28-year career.

His new command is responsible for all U.S. Air Force operations in Europe north of the Alps and in Africa south of the Sahara.

The majority of airmen under the command are stationed in the United Kingdom and Germany.

The 3rd Air Force also handles all support agreements between U.S. forces and the United Kingdom.

The only other numbered Air Force in Europe, the 16th, is based in Aviano and is responsible for air operations south of the Alps.



port Command in Fort Lee, Va. Brown's previous assignment was as the general's staff logistics officer at the Europe Regional Medical Command in Heidelberg, Germany.

For directions to the center, contact Capt. Stephen Speer at DSN 495-7406 or stephen.speer@pir.amedd.army.mil or Doris Crittenden at doris.crittenden@pir.amedd.army.mil.

From staff reports

Tops in Blue planning tour of Europe in fall

Stars and Stripes

SEMBACH, Germany — Tops in Blue, the Air Force's song-and-dance troupe, will perform dozens of times in Europe starting in September.

The group, which is based at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, is in Europe now performing in Turkey. The current European tour, ray started at Lajes Field in the Azores on Saturday, then went to Morón, Spain, and ends Sunday in Ankara, Turkey.

According to the latest posting on the group's Web site, Tops in Blue will spend time in the Central Command's area of responsibility following the Ankara performance. Because of force protection issues, locations and times for those shows are not announced.

After a few weeks in the States, the group returns to Europe for dates in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy and Iceland.

This year's tour, consisting of 150 shows at 130 locations in the States and abroad, is titled "Musicalology." Songs from artists including the Brian Setzer Orchestra, Chaka Kahn, the Commodores, Madonna, Ray Charles, Martina McBride, Celine Dion and the Blues Brothers will be performed.

Dozens of airmen make up the troupe, including one member

this year stationed in Europe: 2nd Lt. Laura Richmond from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The shows are free to the public.

Schedule of performances in Europe includes:

- Stuttgart, Germany, Sept. 18-19.
- Garmisch, Germany, Sept. 18-19.
- Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sept. 28.
- Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Oct. 2.
- Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Oct. 3.
- Buechel Air Base, Germany, Oct. 5.
- Brunsum, Netherlands, Oct. 6.
- Gellenkirchen, Germany, Oct. 7.
- Kleine Brogel, Netherlands, Oct. 8.
- Kalkar, Germany, Oct. 9.
- Volkel, Germany, Oct. 12.
- SHAPE, Belgium, Oct. 14.
- RAF Fairford, England, Oct. 16.
- RAF Croughton, England, Oct. 18.
- RAF Molesworth, England, Oct. 19.
- RAF Lakenheath/Mildenhall, England, Oct. 20-21.
- Aviano Air Base, Italy, Oct. 23-24.
- Keflavik, Iceland, Oct. 27-28.

Brown taking over medical command

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center Europe will have a change of command ceremony at 2 p.m. Friday.

The center commander, Col. Jettaka Signaigo, will relinquish command to Col. Thomas Brown during the ceremony at the center's remote work site at Husterboch Kaserne in Pirmasens.

Signaigo is moving to the Combined Arms Sup-

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Benefit returned to some survivors of vets who remarried

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Surviving spouses of veterans have until year's end to apply for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits that were ended because they had remarried.

Under the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, veterans' surviving spouses can continue to collect DIC even if they remarry, provided they are 57 years or older at the time they remarry.

Because of the law, widows and widowers who stopped getting the monthly benefit because they remarried have until Dec. 15 to apply to have it restarted, said Terry Jemison, a spokesman for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The law's grandfather clause applies to those who remarried after age 57, and before Dec. 16, 2003.

"We are very concerned about getting the word out to them. Because they have not been on our rolls since remarriage and we are not in touch with them, we don't always have a good address to reach them in our direct mail attempts to alert them to their possible new eligibility," Jemison said.

"We've tried the convention-

al 'women's magazines' that might appeal to older women and haven't gotten much interest from those periodicals. [They are a] [h]ard demographic to reach in generalized outreach."

Widows and widowers who remarry before their 57th birthday are barred from getting the DIC benefit, unless the subsequent marriage ends, and they remain barred while remarried even when they reach 57, Jemison said.

The DIC benefit is paid to survivors of military personnel who die in the line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training. If the member dies during inactive duty for training, benefits are payable in some cases, and payment is sometimes authorized if a member dies after service, if the death is due to a service-connected disability.

Because there are so many variables, Jemison suggests surviving spouses contact a benefit claims worker by calling (800) 827-1000.

The basic monthly rate for surviving spouses is \$967, and \$241 per child. There are several other allowances provided, and details of those can be found at: www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp03.htm#BM01

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY KENDRA HELMER/Stars and Stripes

C.J. Myers, 10, a stick protruding from his ribs, waits to be rescued Thursday from a window of the science wing at Naples American High School in Italy during a drill. Personnel from the Naples base hospital at Grigiano, emergency services, and security and fire departments participated with about 30 victims who had "wounds" including burns and chemical exposure. The scenario was a car bomb detonating by the school.

Drilling for the worst



Left: An Italian firefighter calls for help for Seaman Charles DeHart, 20, a cryptologic technician, as he hangs out the window of the science wing.

Right: Seaman Kevin Foust, 20, a cryptologic technician, plays dead on the hot concrete Thursday at the Grigiano support site in Naples, Italy.



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IN THE WORLD

Europeans missing out on summer

BY GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Snowball fights in July. Mulled wine instead of wine coolers. Thermostats set on high. Spring has come and gone, fall approaches — and Europeans from Oslo to Budapest are still waiting for the summer.

Much of Europe woke up to yet another day of chilly temperatures and rain Thursday, adding to the weeks of miserable weather gripping Europe from Scandinavia down to parts of the Balkans.

And this in a continent that had feared a recurrence of last summer's heat wave that killed thousands.

This year's May was fitful, and June promised a summer that could go either way. But except for southern Europe, July has been wet and glacial.

On many days, temperatures have been half that of last year, when the mercury sat at 95 Fahrenheit or higher for weeks, resulting in overcrowded swimming pools, record ice cream sales and stores emptied of fans and air conditioners.

Meteorologists say the comparison with last summer is misleading because it was unusually hot and dry in much of Europe.



An unidentified boy and his mother from Kuwait, members of a tourist group, enjoy romping in the snow Tuesday on Germany's highest peak, the Zugspitze mountain near Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The cold and rainy weather has caused snowfalls in the Alps.

"It's a little cooler than it should be, but it's not too bad," said Vienna weatherman Ernst Rudel of the past few weeks, describing the rains sweeping Austria this summer as "a little more precipitation than normal."

But the wacky weather has in some areas led to virtual winter in July.

Instead of hiking, tourists in Germany's Bavarian Alps have worked up a sweat with snowball fights and sleigh rides after heavy snowfalls that dusted peaks — and in some cases valleys down 6,500 feet.

Apparently it's no attraction: Stefanie Loefer of the nearby regional tourist office in Erfurt said frosty temperatures and two weeks of rain have hurt tourism hard.

Britons — whose summer weather has been the envy of no one over the years — have even less to laugh about than usual.

Shrewsbury in northwest England had a temperature of 53 degrees on July 8 — the coldest ever for the month.

The sun has shone a miserly three days in July, in most of Britain, and on Thursday much of the country was murky and drizzly yet again. It was a particularly bad sign, being St. Swithin's Day, when folklore holds that rain means another 40 days of downpours.

Elliot Frisby, a spokesman for the Visit Britain tourism board, maintained a stiff upper lip.

"We don't sell Britain as a sun, sea and sand destination," he said.

8 Yemeni soldiers killed in clashes

BY AHMED AL-HAJJ
The Associated Press

SANA'A, Yemen — Eight soldiers were killed in overnight clashes between security forces and followers of a Shiite dissident in northern Yemen, an army official said Thursday.

Confrontations between security forces and followers of Hussein Badr Eddin al-Houthi in Sa'dah, 125 miles north of the capital Sana'a, renewed Wednesday night, with a heavy exchange of fire that lasted until Thursday morning, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Eight army soldiers were killed and it was not immediately clear if there were any casualties to al-Houthi's forces. The official said 14 dissidents were arrested, including Shams Matar, a senior member of al-Houthi's armed group — al-Shabab al-Mo'men, or the Believing Youth.

During their advances on the mountain, thousands Monday through Wednesday, security forces found the bodies of 14 other followers, the official added.

He said that 20 of the arrested group members have been transferred to Sana'a for investigations and eight wounded also were moved to hospitals there.

Clashes first erupted June 21 between the government and followers of al-Houthi, regarded by officials as an outlaw. Police accuse al-Houthi and his followers of sedition, attacking government buildings and security forces, forming an illegal armed group and inciting people not to pay taxes. His group also is said to encourage anti-American sentiment with mosque speeches and demonstrations.

Despite repeated — failed — attempts at mediation, officials say that at least 49 soldiers and 125 al-Houthi followers have been killed since the fighting began. At least another 127 soldiers and 71 al-Houthi followers have been injured.

Meanwhile, an official at the prosecutor's office said a Sana'a-based judge was arrested for allegedly propagating al-Houthi's ideas. The sons of judge Mohammed Ali Luqman, however, wrote a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who also heads the Supreme Judiciary Council, objecting to the arrest and denying the accusation against their father.

The conflict between al-Houthi and the government has been promoted by al-Houthi's status as an outlaw and not as an attack on Shiites, who represent about 30 percent of the Yemeni population and are generally not persecuted against. Authorities have announced a reward of \$50,000 for al-Houthi's capture.

Mandela calls for greater donations to the worldwide fight against AIDS

BY JENNIFER CHEN
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Democracy icon Nelson Mandela called on governments, businesses and citizens on Thursday to donate generously to the war on AIDS, saying "no amount is too small," as the United Nations blamed the epidemic for the plummeting life expectancy in parts of Africa.

Mandela's fervent appeal at the 15th International AIDS Conference followed announcements Thursday by the European Union and Bill Gates' foundation of fresh contributions totaling \$102 million to a U.N.-sponsored global fund to fight the epidemic.

As the six-day conference

wound down ahead of its closing ceremony Friday, protests continued against President Bush's funding policies and his emphasis on abstinence over condoms as a primary defense against HIV transmission.

"Bush is a jerk. Condoms work," about 20 youth protesters shouted as they briefly took over a U.S. government booth at the conference, distributing literature promoting condom use and prompting staff to leave.

Much of Bush's foreign aid on AIDS is tied to abstinence programs. Critics say a vow of abstinence is difficult to maintain and, when broken, can lead to unprotected sex, raising the risk of HIV infection that could effectively be blocked by a condom.

Thursday was the last day of scientific presentations, with experts calling for urgent work on HIV-killing gels that could help protect women who can't rely on condoms. The gels, known as microbicides, and other prevention methods such as female condoms have gained importance as it has become clear an AIDS vaccine is still a long way off.

The vaginal gels could be applied long before intercourse and without a partner's knowledge. Dr. Zeda Rosenberg urged that \$1 billion be poured into research on such products over the next five years.

"The science is there. The technology is there, and most of all, the passion and dedication of those in the field is palpable," she said.



Former South Africa President Nelson Mandela arrives at a hall for a news conference Thursday at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

One gored at final bull run in Spain

PAMPLONA, Madrid — Only one runner was gored Wednesday in the final running of the bulls at this year's San Fermín festival, ending eight days of man-versus-beast dashes on a relatively injury-free note.

About 15 runners were gored and a couple of dozen suffered various injuries requiring medical attention during the world-famous festival, which honors the patron saint of this Spanish town.

A dozen bulls clattered through the narrow streets of Pamplona, packed with daredevils trying to run just ahead of their horns. The man who was gored was caught from behind by a black bull, hooked with its right horn and then trampled. He was carried away on a stretcher.

From The Associated Press

BMW recalls 4,000 vehicles

FRANKFURT, Germany — German luxury carmaker BMW AG said Thursday it is recalling 4,000 vehicles worldwide due to defective control units in V8 and V12 gasoline engines.

BMW said on its Web site that new vehicles registered between May 13 and July 6 are affected. "Due to a temporary production fault of a supplier, deficient parts were supplied and installed in new 5-, 6- and 7-Series and X5 models with V8 or V12 cylinder petrol engines," BMW said in a statement.

The engines of these vehicles may cut off after a short running time, which could lead to failure of the power steering, as well as the brake booster following repeated operation of the brake, BMW said. The company says owners should not drive the cars, and should call their dealer for more information.

IN THE STATES

Bush signs bill cracking down on identity theft

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Thursday signed into law a measure that imposes mandatory prison terms for criminals who use identity theft in committing terrorist acts and other offenses.

A criminal will serve an extra five years in prison for using a false passport in connection with a terrorism-related crime. Two years would be tacked on for ID theft in connection with other types of crimes.

Some 10 million Americans were victimized by identity thieves last year at a cost of \$50 billion, making it one of the fastest-growing financial crimes,

Bush said as he signed the bill at the White House.

"Identity theft undermines the basic trust on which our economy depends," Bush said. He said identity thieves "can steal a victim's financial reputation" by running up bills on accounts the victim never knew existed.

The law is meant to take away judges' ability to give probation, reduced sentences or concurrent sentences for identity theft linked to felony crimes. It was approved with bipartisan support.

Lawmakers said prosecutors needed better tools to punish identity theft, especially when it is used to commit terrorist acts.

House Judiciary Committee

Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., says al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations increasingly turn to stolen identities to hide themselves from law enforcement.

The Postal Inspection Service, FBI and Secret Service have cracked down on criminal networks responsible for much identity theft. The Federal Trade Commission trains local law enforcement in detecting ID theft. The FTC set up a data clearing house to keep track of complaints and provide records to prosecutors.

The recently signed Fair and Accurate Transactions Act establishes a national system of fraud detection so victims can alert all three major credit rating agencies with a single phone call.

President shuns NAACP, but will address Urban League

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Leaders of the NAACP, through their "hostile rhetoric," have shown no interest in working with President Bush, the White House said Thursday. The president skipped speaking to the group, but will address the annual meeting of another civil rights organization next week.

Bush will speak at the Urban League on July 23 during its convention in Detroit. Democratic presidential candidate John

Kerry also has been invited to speak to the league.

"The president welcomes differing views — constructive dialogue about differences. Ways we can work together on shared priorities is an important part of our national discourse. But the current [NAACP] leadership, through their repeated partisan comments and hostile rhetoric, have shown that they are not interested in a constructive dialogue," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

Bush declined to speak to the NAACP during its convention in Philadelphia this week, drawing criticism from NAACP leaders.

he spoke to the group when he was running for president, Bush has not attended its convention as president, the first since the 1930s to decline to speak to the group.

The White House cited a scheduling conflict when it turned down the NAACP invitation. Bush later said his relationship with NAACP leaders was "nonexistent" and told reporters, "You've heard the rhetoric and the names they've called me."

On Monday, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume described Bush's black supporters as "rentalists' dummies" and said the president's decision not to speak at the convention was an insult. The same day, NAACP chairman Julian Bond urged members to oust Bush and condemned the administration's policies on education, the economy and the war in Iraq.

Kerry was scheduled to speak to the NAACP on Thursday, the final day of its convention.

Bush spoke to an Urban League conference in July 2003, telling the mostly black audience that his economic policies were a path to "greater opportunity and hope" for black Americans. When he addressed the group's national convention in Washington in August 2001 he asked members to support his education initiatives.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., raises a fist as salutes a member of the audience at addressing delegates at the 95th annual NAACP convention Thursday in Philadelphia.

Kerry tells NAACP he will be a uniter

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Democrat John Kerry, taking advantage of a spat between the NAACP and the White House, accused President Bush on Thursday of dividing America by race and wealth, and promised as president to represent "all of the people."

"The president may be too busy to talk to you," Kerry told the partisan crowd, "but I have news for you: He's going to have plenty of time after Nov. 2."

Bush rejected an invitation to address the NAACP. He has not spoken to the civil rights group since the 2000 campaign, when the NAACP National Voter Fund ran an ad that portrayed Bush as unsympathetic to the dragging death of James Byrd in Texas.

Since the campaign, leaders of the NAACP have called Bush an illegal president, compared his anti-abortion views to the Taliban and called his trip to Africa a photo-op.

When Kerry took his turn on stage to the soul anthem "We are

Family," he said, "I will be a president who is truly a uniter, not one who seeks to divide one nation by race or riches or by any other label."

He noted the high unemployment rate for blacks, and said Bush had not done enough to improve education, the economy and civil rights for all Americans, including blacks.

In a foreign policy tracked closely by blacks, Kerry said as president he would use "the full weight of American leadership" to help stop genocide in Sudan. A spokeswoman said that could not be a first step.

"This administration must stop equivocating," Kerry said.

After his speech to the NAACP, Kerry was beginning his "Front Porch Tour" in Philadelphia suburb of Lansdowne. The Kerry campaign is putting a new spin on an old technique — trying to get the candidate more time sharing concerns with regular Americans.

Edwards knows grocery shopping

WASHINGTON — Democratic vice presidential contender John Edwards may not know how much milk costs in New Mexico, but he's got a handle on his local grocery prices.

Edwards has promoted himself as the down-to-earth candidate who can relate to the struggles of working families. So broadcaster Don Imus put those claims to the test Thursday, quizzing the Democrat about the costs of milk and beer in Albuquerque, N.M.

Edwards said he hadn't bought beer in years, so he didn't know. But the father of a 4-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter was more confident about milk. "I know about what it costs. I think a half gallon of milk costs about \$2.30, \$2.40," he said. "Is that right?"

A half gallon of milk sells for \$2.29 in Edwards' upscale Georgetown neighborhood in Washington. It's \$2.09 in Albuquerque.

Educacion secretary attacks NAACP leaders

WASHINGTON — Rod Paige, the nation's first black education secretary, condemned NAACP leaders Thursday for saying some black groups are fronts for white conservatives.

"You do not own, and you are not the arbiters of, African-American authenticity," Paige, who rose from segregated Mississippi to become President Bush's education chief, said in the Wall Street Journal.

Paige took aim at two NAACP leaders, chairman Julian Bond and president Kweisi Mfume, for what he called "hatful and untruthful rhetoric about Republicans and President Bush."

From The Associated Press

Cheney reaffirms he will remain on 2004 GOP ticket

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney says rumors aside, he's not dropping out of the race.

President Bush has been "very clear he doesn't want to break up the team," Cheney said in a C-SPAN interview that will be broadcast Sunday.

There has been persistent speculation that Cheney would step down for political or health reasons.

"He's made his decision," Cheney said of Bush. "I've made mine. I suppose right now, because we're in the run up to the convention, people don't have much to talk about so you get speculation on that. It's normal. When we get to the convention, I think that'll put an end to it."

White House spokesman Scott McClellan added Thursday, "Yes, he will be on the ticket."

et."

While Cheney is strongly supported by the GOP's conservative base, some Republicans have quietly suggested that he should be replaced. He has had

four heart attacks and his approval ratings have plummeted amid persistent questions about his role in promoting the Iraq war and in handling

the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Among replacement possibilities: Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Secretary of State Colin Powell, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.



Cheney



Bush

Congress shifts strategy on gay marriage

House looks at legislation restricting homosexual unions from being transferred from state-to-state

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Unable to ban gay marriage, congressional Republicans are working to contain it, advancing legislation in the House to make sure federal courts don't order states to recognize same-sex unions sanctioned outside their borders.

"When federal judges step out of line, Congress has the responsibility to drop the red flag," Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said Wednesday as the court-stripping measure cleared the House Judiciary Committee on a near-party-line vote of 21-13.

Democrats objected, some strenuously. Rep. Maxine Waters of California called the legislation a political exercise, and Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, the first openly gay woman elect-

ed to Congress, criticized it as "unnecessary, unconstitutional and unwise."

Even so, GOP officials said the measure likely would be on the House floor next week, and they expressed confidence it would pass.

"We know now which senators are for traditional marriage and which ones are not, and by November so will voters in every state."

Tony Perkins
president, Family
Research Council

If so, it would mark a clear victory for gay marriage opponents, who suffered a decisive setback Wednesday in the Senate when the constitutional amendment fell a dozen votes shy of the 60 needed to advance.

Within hours of the vote in which 48 senators voted to advance the measure and 50 to block it, President Bush issued a statement saying he was "deeply disappointed" by the outcome, but calling it a temporary setback.

"Activist judges and local officials in some parts of the country are not letting up in their efforts

to redefine marriage for the rest of America and neither should defenders of traditional marriage flag in their efforts," he added.

"It is important for our country to continue the debate on this important issue, and I urge the House of Representatives to pass this amendment," the president said.

Bush wasn't the only one who seemed eager to extend an election-year debate over the issue. "We know now which senators are for traditional marriage and which ones are not, and by November so will voters in every state," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council. "This fight has just begun."

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, which opposed the amendment, expressed little concern about political repercussions. "I think the discussion will continue to play out, but I think they played their best hand today and couldn't even get a simple majority," she said of the Senate vote.

Bush's public prodding alone assures the issue will persist into the fall, and Republican strategists have said they hope the issue can be put to use against Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic



Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., center, talks to reporters on Capitol Hill on Wednesday after Republicans failed in their attempt to amend the Constitution to ban gay marriage.

presidential nominee-in-waiting.

Kerry, D-Mass., skipped the Senate vote. He issued a statement renewing his opposition to the amendment and accusing Republicans of seeking to alter the constitution for political gain.

"The unfortunate result is that the important work of the American people — funding our homeland security needs, creating new and better jobs, and raising the minimum wage — is not getting done," he said.

Las Vegas merger: Harrah's moves to buy Caesars

By ADAM GOLDMAN
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Harrah's Entertainment Inc. is buying Caesars Entertainment Inc. for about \$5.2 billion in cash and stock in a deal that would create the largest gambling company in the world.

The deal announced Thursday eclipses last month's high-profile MGM Mirage merger with Mandalay Resort Group while setting up a battle for customers on the lucrative Las Vegas Strip.

A source familiar with the deal, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Harrah's and Caesars began negotiating after MGM Mirage completed its deal last month to buy Mandalay for \$4.8 billion in cash.

Both deals will face intense scrutiny from federal and state gambling regulators.

Under terms of the deal announced Thursday, Harrah's will pay \$1.8 billion in cash and exchange

about \$3.4 billion in Harrah's stock for all of the shares of its Las Vegas-based rival.

That values Caesars' common stock at about \$16.36 a share, a 6 percent premium over its closing price of \$16 on Wednesday.

Harrah's also will assume about \$4.2 billion in Caesars Entertainment debt in the deal.

The deal has been approved by the boards of both companies but is subject to approval by shareholders and regulators.

In morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange, shares of Caesars were down 86 cents, or 5.4 percent, to \$15.14, while Harrah's shares fell \$3.05, or 6 percent, to \$47.95.

Harrah's Entertainment, which operates heavily with riverboat casinos, has 28 casinos in 13 states under the Harrah's and Showboat names. It has about 41,000 employees.

Caesars has 28 properties worldwide, including Caesars Palace and Bally's Las Vegas.



Eric Singiser, left, Susan Bucland, center and family friend Tracey Clements, right, salvage what they can Wednesday on Garth Warn's Campbelltown, Pa., home, Campbelltown took the brunt of a severe storm packing high winds that damaged several homes.

Storm-hit residents return

The Associated Press

CAMPBELLTOWN, Pa. — Residents began returning home Thursday under the watch of state police a day after storms damaged at least 50 houses and hurt two dozen people.

Utility crews and insurance adjusters started assessing the damage, and weather experts were on the way to determine whether the thunderstorms had spawned a tornado in this south-central Pennsylvania town of 2,400.

Among the injured, one woman remained hospitalized in critical condition.

At least 30 homes in the neighborhood were leveled or appeared uninhabitable, and at least 20 sustained some dam-

age, said Daniel Kauffman, acting director of the Lebanon County Emergency Management Agency.

Funnel-cloud shaped formations were reported, but authorities couldn't immediately confirm that a twister had formed.

About 100 miles to the east, meanwhile, about 200 residents of Lumberton, N.J., were also returning home Thursday after being evacuated because heavy flooding.

The town and surrounding Burlington County, which stretches east from Philadelphia through the south-central part of the state had torrential rains Monday and Tuesday that burst a dozen small dams and forced more than 750 people from their homes.

Ditka won't run

CHICAGO — With four months to go before the election, Illinois Republicans are desperately searching for a U.S. Senate candidate after former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka said he wouldn't run.

The state GOP has tried to fill the slot of its state ticket since investment banker John L. Ryan dropped out of the race nearly three weeks ago.

Flight hiccup

MINNEAPOLIS — A power failure delayed or forced the cancellation of scores of Northwest Airlines flights around the country.

Flights that already had taken off were not affected, and power

was restored in about 45 minutes, she said.

By late afternoon, 124 North-west flights had been canceled, plus 225 flights on its partner carriers, Mesa and Pinnacle, Stanik said.

From The Associated Press

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Amber Tamblyn, front, plays the starring role in CBS' "Joan of Arcadia" with from left background, Jason Ritter, Michael Welch, Mary Steubenberg and Joe Mantegna. The show and Tamblyn were nominated for Emmy awards on Thursday. Ritter's dad, the late John Ritter, was also nominated for his work on "8 Simple Rules."



'Angels in America' leads Emmy nominations with 21

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Angels in America," the surreal HBO miniseries adapted from a Pulitzer Prize-winning play about New Yorkers affected by the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, received a leading 21 Emmy nominations Thursday.

"The Sopranos" was the leading nominee among series, with 20.

In a year that saw changes in Emmy rules intended to broaden the field beyond familiar nominees, newcomers included Fox's critically acclaimed sitcom "Arrested Development" and CBS' drama "Joan of Arcadia."

TV Academy members gave a farewell to HBO's "Sex and the City" with a best comedy series nod for its final season, but didn't nominate two other departing series, "Friends" and "Frasier."

HBO received a dominant 124 nominations, nearly twice that of runner-up NBC with 65 bids. CBS received 44 nominations; ABC had 33, Fox 31 and PBS 27.

John Ritter, the "8 Simple Rules" comedy star who died last year, received a posthumous nomination as best lead actor in a comedy series.

"The Reagans," which was bounced from CBS to cable's Showtime after some protested its portrayal of the late President Reagan, received seven nominations, including outstanding made-for-TV movie. James Brolin and Judy Davis, who played Ronald and Nancy Reagan, received acting nods.

"Angels in America," based on Tony Kushner's play which combines harsh reality and fantasy, was nominated as outstanding miniseries and earned acting nods for stars Emma Thompson, Al Pacino and Meryl Streep.

Other nominated miniseries: "American Family: Journey of Dreams," "Horatio Hornblower," "Prime Suspect 6: The Last Witness" and "Traffic: The Miniseries."

Nominees for the reality series category were Donald Trump's hit "The Apprentice," "The Amazing Race," "American Idol," "Last Comic Standing" and "Survivor."

The nominees are ...

Nominees in major categories for the 56th annual Primetime Emmy Awards announced Thursday:

■ **Drama Series:** "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS; "Joan of Arcadia," CBS; "The Sopranos," HBO; "24," Fox; "The West Wing," NBC.

■ **Comedy Series:** "Arrested Development," Fox; "Curb Your Enthusiasm," HBO; "Everybody Loves Raymond," CBS; "Sex and the City," HBO; "Will & Grace," NBC.

■ **Actor, Drama Series:** James Spader, "The Practice," ABC; James Gandolfini, "The Sopranos," HBO; Kiefer Sutherland, "24," Fox; Martin Sheen, "The West Wing," NBC; Anthony LaPaglia, "Without a Trace," CBS.

■ **Actress, Drama Series:** Jennifer Garner, "Alias," ABC; Amber Tamblyn, "Joan of Arcadia," CBS; Mariska Hargitay, "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," NBC; Edie Falco, "The Sopranos," HBO; Allison Janney, "The West Wing," NBC.

■ **Actor, Comedy Series:** Larry David, "Curb Your Enthusiasm," HBO; John Ritter, "8 Simple Rules," ABC; Kelsey Grammer, "Frasier," NBC; Matt LeBlanc, "Friends," NBC; Tony Shalhoub, "Monk," USA.

■ **Actress, Comedy Series:** Patricia Heaton, "Everybody Loves Raymond," CBS; Jennifer Aniston, "Friends," NBC; Bonnie Hunt, "Life with Bonnie," ABC; Jane Kaczmarek, "Malcolm in the Middle," Fox; Sarah Jessica Parker, "Sex and the City," HBO.

— The Associated Press

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Slim-Fast dumps Whoopi ad over Bush joke at rally

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Slim-Fast diet drink company has dumped Whoopi Goldberg from its advertising because its executives were unhappy with remarks the comedian made at a recent political rally that mocked President George Bush.

"We are disappointed by the manner in which Goldberg chose to express herself and sincerely regret that her recent remarks offended some of our consumers. Ads featuring Ms. Goldberg will no longer be on the air," Slim-Fast general manager Terry Olson said in a release Wednesday.

Goldberg participated at a recent Democratic fund-raiser at Radio City Music Hall in New York, joining performing acts as John Mellencamp, Jon Bon Jovi, Paul Newman and Meryl Streep.

In a speech mocking the Bush administration, Goldberg used his surname as a sexual reference.

The event raised \$7.5 million for the John Kerry-John Edwards presidential ticket. Both Kerry and Edwards attended.

The GOP immediately declared the fund-raiser a

"hatefest" that exposed the Democratic ticket's liberal Hollywood values." The New York Daily News reported in its Thursday editions.

Republican Party leaders demanded an apology. Goldberg refused.

"While I can appreciate what the Slim-Fast people need to do in order to protect their business, I must also do what I need to do as an artist, as a writer and as an American, not to mention as a comic," the Daily News reported Goldberg as saying.

Slim-Fast said it was deluged with complaints about the potty-mouthed tirade.

A Kerry spokeswoman said Kerry did not agree with everything said at the fund-raiser but chose not to comment on Goldberg, the Daily News reported.



Goldberg

OPINION

Kerry should renounce extremist support ...

It won't be long now until John Kerry will be accepting the Democratic nomination for president of the United States, and I can almost hear him speaking as he looks out at the expectant delegates and tells them where he stands.

Jay Ambrose



"I would remind you," he may well say, "that extremism in the defense of my election is no vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of defeating George W. Bush is no virtue."

Those words — with a few changes — were actually spoken by Barry Goldwater when he accepted the Republican nomination in 1964. Some of his most vociferous supporters were wacky to the point of being scary, including some members of the John Birch Society. Its founder, Robert Welch, had gone so far as to say President Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

Reject these extremists, Goldwater was urged. But while his own conservatism consisted essentially

of the common sense, real-world understanding of the threats to the individual posed by an ever-growing federal government, he treaded softly in talking about even his loudest backers, telling the GOP convention that extremism in defense of liberty was a good thing and that moderation in pursuit of justice was bad.

A few commentators have urged Kerry to reject the extremists now shrieking their absurdities. More should be said. Kerry should do what Goldwater failed to do: make clear that he wants no part of the sort of politics that feeds off paranoia and hatred while poisoning political discourse in America.

The candidate might start with Julian Bond, president of the NAACP.

Put Bond's rhetoric in an extremist race with Welch's, and it just might take victory laps. According to Bond, Bush wants to get rid of the 14th Amendment assuring equality under law. The White House, he has said, is in the grip of a "right-wing conspiracy." Bush and other Republicans appeal to "the dark underside of American culture" and seek electoral success through policies of racial division, he keeps repeating.

Considering such talk — and, believe me, there is more and some of it nastier — it's no wonder Bush decided to avoid speaking at this

month's NAACP convention. ("Will you walk into my parlor?" said the spider to the fly. "It's the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy.") Members of the group, who reportedly were outraged at Bush's repudiation about being eaten alive, might ask themselves whether Bond and some others are not denouncing an organization whose past accomplishments are of historic consequence.

Kerry, who did address the NAACP convention, is not going to risk alienating minority voters by taking on Bond, of course, but what about Michael Moore, another outlandish imaginer of conspiracies? The director of "Fahrenheit 9/11" as much as says in the movie that Bush started the war in Iraq because of his family's financial interests in Saudi Arabia. The thesis that the war was meant to repay the Saudis has a flaw, as others have pointed out: The Saudis were opposed to the war.

The movie has other flaws, such as grotesque intellectual dishonesty in its failure to discuss Saddam Hussein's genocidal past.

Some of the film editing — giving one sentence of a Condoleezza Rice quote entirely out of context — is equivalent to lying. No, let's state it more bluntly: It is a lie. The movie represents a low in recent American politics, and Kerry — who says he has not seen it and doesn't plan to — ought to join



those flocking to theaters, and then comment.

Oh, but let's be real. I don't kid myself that Kerry will attack Moore, either, or that he will castigate the extreme bad taste of that great intellect of our times, Whoopi Goldberg, whose performance at a recent Democratic fund-raiser apparently established a new low. He sure as heck won't criticize Al Gore, who went off the deep end in a speech comparing Bush not just to Hitler (common these days) but also to Stalin. Wow.

But liberals might note that conservatives — William F. Buckley led the way — did dissociate themselves from the John Birch Society and other conspiracy-mongers, making clear that their inanities did not represent their philosophy. The way things were further paved for a conservative ascendancy marked by the election of Ronald Reagan as president. Political courage can have its rewards.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

...and Bush should be realistic, not just optimistic

I never dreamed that I would be feeling quite so cranky this early in the campaign season. Or that I would be driven from my usual sunny disposition to grumpiness by the Optimism Imperative.

Have you noticed that the second most overused word in presidential politics — right after "values" — is optimism? Optimism is not just an attitude anymore, it's an entire political platform. It's as if both candidates were competing for Optimism in Chief.

The whole thing began, as far as I can tell, in February, that doourest of months, when Bush's campaign manager said: "We're moving into a phase where we will begin contrasting the president's positive, optimistic vision with the alternative."

Since then, Republicans have issued more warnings about pessimism than about terrorism. Bush has ritually described himself as "optimistic about America because I believe in the people of America." The Republicans have run ads — going negative on negativity — attacking John Kerry as "still pessimistic, on a misery tour." Dick Cheney, a walking, talking scowl of a man, has said "it's a choice between President Bush's hope and optimism and Sen. Kerry's pessimism."

And even after Kerry walked to the sunny side of the street for his running mate, the Bush-Cheney Web site warned: "Sen. Edwards delivers his pessimism with a Southern drawl and a smile." He isn't an optimist, he just plays one on TV.

Edwards himself once delivered a speech called "In Defense of Optimism." And Kerry put out an ad, full of beaming children, say-

ing: "We're a country of the future. We're a country of optimists. We're the can-do people."

The need to be seen as the Upbeat Candidate became institutionalized after 1987, when psychologist Martin Seligman's research on campaign speeches concluded that the more optimistic candidate nearly always wins.

The Optimism Imperative usually cites a list of White House winners. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's theme song in the midst of the Depression was "Happy Days Are Here Again." Ronald Reagan made his sunny-ness into a slogan: "Morning Again in America." And Bill Clinton was the ever-resilient Man from Hope. On the other hand, there was Jimmy Carter "malaise."

As for Bush, who continually boasts his own optimism: One ad even says that "pessimism never created a job." (Tell that to the defense industry.) Was it the pessimist Bush who accepted the bleakest flotsam and jets-

am of intelligence to bolster war against Saddam? Or was it the eternal optimist Bush who believed that we'd be greeted with flowers?

For that matter, does the Bush view of a world divided into good and evil optimists cheer you up? Or make you gloomy? Is the view that we should bring democracy to the world optimistic? Or foolhardy? By the way, the Bush team still can't decide whether it wins more points when voters are scared or hopeful. So we get alternating terrorism alerts and happy talk. Maybe this is what Oscar Wilde meant when he said, "The basis of optimism is sheer terror."

The Optimism Imperative has infected both parties, but it actually comes in two strains: the ins and the outs. The "ins" attach optimism to the status quo and equate criticism with pessimism. The "outs" attach optimism to change.

Kerry, who does not come across as a happy warrior, has chosen as his campaign

mantra a poem written by Langston Hughes during the Depression: "Let America be America again/Let it be the dream it used to be."

In my book, any politician who thinks he can beat the odds and become president of the United States qualifies automatically as an optimist. With the possible exception of Ralph Nader. But I am not willing to concede that a candidate's optimism is the political trump card. Attitude is no substitute for sober judgment. A cheerleader is not always a leader.

Some of our greatest accomplishments and some of our greatest disasters were all begun with optimism. The "can-do spirit" is fine and Yankee Doodle Dandy. But a leader needs to know the difference between what we can do and what we should do, and what we'd better not do.

That would give me reason for optimism.

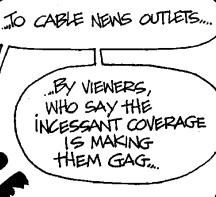
Ellen Goodman is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Ellen Goodman



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 70s. Lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 70s. Lows in the upper 50s.

France: Sunny to partly cloudy.
Highs in the upper 70s to low 80s
Lows in the 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the 70s. Lows in the 50s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the 70s. Lows in the lower 50s to lower 60s.

Hungary: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Lows in the upper 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.

Southern Italy: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s to lower 90s. Lows in the mid 60s to mid 70s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms and morning fog. Highs in the upper 70s. Lows in the

Norway: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 60s. Lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s to mid 90s. Lows in the mid 60s to lower 70s.

Turkey: Sunny to partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the northern portions. Highs in the lower 80s to lower 90s. Lows in the lower 60s to mid 70s.

KEY: Sunny Pt. Cldy. Mostly cldy. Cloudy Showers Tstorms Rain Rain/snow Snow Cold frnt. Warm frnt. TROUGH Occluded fr. Slaty front Low High

AFRIC

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	67	44	Mogadishu	79	73
Dakar	84	75	Nairobi	74	50
Freetown	83	74	Rabat	81	64
Kisumu	80	66	Tsimoli	95	71

THE V

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	70	58	Manila	89	76
Bahrain	110	84	Mexico City	73	55
Beijing	92	70	Montreal	71	62
Beirut	85	73	Riyadh	111	84
Bermuda	87	79	Rio de Jan	82	66
Caracas	81	65	Seoul	75	70
Helsinki	69	53	Sofia	74	55
Hong Kong	90	81	Sydney	66	44
Lisbon	86	66	Tokyo	87	75

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

MIDEAST

A map of India with weather icons and temperature/rainfall data for three cities:

- New Delhi:** 95/80 (Clear sky icon)
- Hyderabad:** 84/72 (Cloudy with rain icon)
- Bombay:** 87/79 (Clear sky icon)

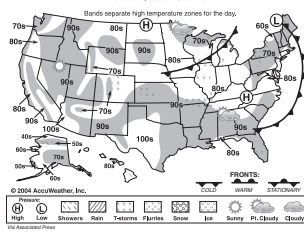
For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

		Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (London)		0455	0456
Sunrise (Frankfurt)		0535	0536
Sunset (London)		2112	2111
Sunset (Frankfurt)		2129	2127
			
New Moon -71%	First qtr.	Full Moon -73%	Last qtr.

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



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Football bar brawl

FL TAMPA — A dispute over a \$1,670 bar tab turned into a brawl over the weekend involving Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Frank Murphy, police say.

Murphy, 27, walked into Bahama Lounge with about 30 friends as part of a benefit for children. The trouble came when he began walking out without paying the tab, police said.

He argued with staffers and then punched employee Michael Garvin, 23, police said. Garvin went down and Murphy kicked him, investigators said.

Murphy left, but returned about 30 minutes later, after changing clothes. His attorney was with him. Murphy was not arrested because the bar brawler was a misdemeanor, said Tampa police Lt. Mike Palmieri.

"Since he's Frank Murphy the Tampa Bay Buc, everybody assumed that he was good for the bill," Palmieri said. "Obviously, they found out otherwise."

Day-care worker cleared

NH STRATHAM — No charges will be filed against a day-care center worker accused of inappropriately touching two children.

Rockingham County Attorney Jim Reams said there was not enough evidence to prosecute the worker, who resigned from Bright Horizons when the allegations were made last month. Bright Horizons mostly serves children of workers at Timberland Co., which owns the building in which the center is located.

Interstate bus arrest

TX AMARILLO — An Ohio man rushed to the front of a Greyhound bus going about 70 mph, yanked on the steering wheel, then battled the driver for control because he thought President Bush was onboard and in danger of being hijacked, according to court records.

The driver called for help, and a male passenger detained the man so the driver could call 911 for help, according to the FBI affidavit.

Bryan Luther Thomas, 48, of Columbus was arrested July 6 after the Albuquerque-to-Amarillo bus pulled over near Amarillo on Interstate 40. He was charged in federal court Monday with attempting to incapacitate a driver operating a mass transportation vehicle.

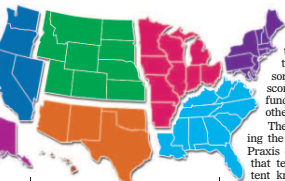
Thomas remained in custody Tuesday after U.S. Magistrate Clinton E. Averette ordered him detained pending further court hearings.

If convicted, Thomas faces 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Mistaken shooting

CO DENVER — Police responding to a report of a woman being assaulted by her husband shot and killed the suspect's uncle, who was watching television in bed.

Police Chief Gerry Whitman said Monday that an officer mistook a soda can Frank Lobato was



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

holding for a weapon and shot him Sunday after he moved suddenly.

Lobato, 63, was an invalid who needed crutches to move around and until last week had been living in a homeless shelter, relatives said.

"This situation involves two tragedies: a brutal case of domestic violence and a loss of life," Mayor John Hickenlooper said.

Medical helo crash

SC JALAPPA — A medical helicopter crashed in a heavily wooded area on Tuesday morning, killing all four people on board, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The helicopter crashed in rough terrain after picking up a car crash victim from Interstate 26, Sheriff Lee Foster said. It was reported down at 5:55 a.m. on U.S. Forest Service land.

Killed were the pilot, a flight nurse, paramedic and the patient, said Betsy McMillan, spokeswoman for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

She had no information on the cause of the crash.

Teacher test foul-up

DC WASHINGTON — About 4,100 people who passed teacher licensing tests were incorrectly told they failed, delaying or preventing some from getting jobs, the testing company says.

The Educational Testing Ser-



Fighting the flames

A helicopter drops water on the Snow Creek brush fire near Palm Springs, Calif. About 1,000 firefighters were backed by helicopters and planes as they worked to contain the fire in the San Bernardino National Forest.

vice, a private company that administers more than 12 million tests worldwide, is tracking down each person who received a faulty score to apologize and refund the \$115 test fee and other expenses.

The company is also notifying the 19 states that use the Praxis exam in question, one that tests teaching and content knowledge for prospective educators of grades seven to 12.

Ky. cross burning

KY BURLINGTON — A black family has moved out of a predominantly white neighborhood in northern Kentucky after finding a charred cross in their front yard.

The FBI and the Boone County Sheriff's Department are investigating the case as a possible civil-rights violation.

Fred Mahone, his wife, 18-year-old stepdaughter and 16-year-old stepson moved to the neighborhood in February. Mahone said he was walking to his car July 2 when he noticed a 3-foot-tall burnt cross under a tree in his front yard.

Mahone filed a report with the sheriff's department. The next morning, he found two windows of his car smashed and filed another report.

Detective retiring

ME AUGUSTA — The state police detective who was behind the wheel of Gov. John Baldacci's sport utility vehicle when it crashed last winter retired Thursday after 20 years on the force and said his departure was unrelated to the accident.

James Trask, 42, said he is retiring because he is now eligible for a pension and plans to take a better-paying and less dangerous job as a consultant for the University of Maine at Augusta.

Trask, who has been on the governor's six-person security detail for nine years, said he decided long before the Feb. 4 accident that he would quit the force when he hit the 20-year mark.

Lee Umphrey, Baldacci's spokesman, said Trask's departure came as no surprise because his retirement plans were known within the governor's office.

Batty passenger

AK FOUKE — Amanda Jones was going batty trying to swat at the creature flying around in the cab of her truck.

Something flew in through her half-open window as she drove in darkness around 1 a.m. Sunday. It was flapping around her head and neck, so she swatted at it to try to make it go away.

She finally struck it down, and turned on the interior light to discover a still-living bat on the floorboard. It had a wingspan of about 5 inches, she said.

Jones, who isn't sure whether the animal bit or scratched her, is awaiting results from the state lab on whether the bat was rabid.

"At the time it happened, I was freaking out," Jones said.

"It flopped all the way down the side of my body."



Cable climb

Thea Roberts of Oakland, Calif., pulls herself up the cable route on the way to the summit of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. The park maintains the cables to enable intrepid hikers to climb a 45-degree pitch.



Volcano flow

Visitors to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park watch from atop a cliff as lava heads towards the ocean near dawn in Volcano, Hawaii.



Cooling off

Michaela McMillan, 6, left, and Chevon Wallace, 9, play at the water park at Centennial Park in Salina, Kan. Temperatures in Salina were over 100 degrees Tuesday.



Air drying

A polar bear shakes off after a dip in the pool at the Henry Vilas Zoo to counter the hot temperatures and muggy conditions in Madison, Wis.



Keeping his cool

A frog stays cool in an algae-covered pond Tuesday at Powell Gardens near Lee's Summit, Mo.



New bloom

An *amorphophallus titanum* blooms for the first time in the state of Texas at the Stephen F. Austin State University Mast Arboretum in Nacogdoches, Texas.



Safe after the spill

Firefighters spray foam at the scene of an overturned tanker on the south-bound lanes of Interstate 95 in Hollywood, Fla. Both directions of I-95 were closed as emergency crews dealt with a spill of diesel fuel and gasoline.

More problems for editor

NH CONWAY — A newspaper editor charged with child pornography lied repeatedly on his resume, according to The Conway Daily Sun.

Guy Priel, 38, was arraigned Tuesday on 12 charges. He worked as a community editor at the newspaper, which scrutinized his resume in light of the arrest.

Priel said he was deputy press secretary for U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., but the senator's current spokeswoman says that's a lie. There's also no record of him working for the New Mexico Republican Caucus or receiving a graduate degree in communications from the University of Delaware.

Police said Priel was convicted in Texas in 1984 of assaulting a 15-year-old boy.

Water funds flowing

NM ALBUQUERQUE — New Mexico will receive \$66 million for water projects in the southwestern corner of the state and up to \$128 million if it decides to build a Gila River diversion project in a deal with Arizona.

The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission on Monday endorsed the agreement between the states. Now, it's up to Congress to give final approval to the deal, which is part of a broad Arizona water-rights settlement.

State officials said the agreement is needed to assure New Mexico's right to water from the Gila River.

The 1968 Central Arizona Project gave New Mexico rights to 18,000 acre-feet of water a year as its allocation from the lower Colorado River Basin. An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons.

Prison revenge allowed

FL TAMPA — An inmate who was mistakenly put in a jail cell with a man who had raped and choked him as a child will not be prosecuted for beating the molester.

Jason Flores, 23, still will have to serve more than two years in prison for other crimes, including car theft and burglary. But prosecutors said Monday they have dropped a battery charge.

Flores was arrested for a string of crimes in October and found himself at the Orient Road Jail, face to face with Kevin Kinder. Flores attacked him.

Three mental health experts testified on Flores' behalf at his sentencing, saying the counseling he received after being raped was inadequate.

An expert from the University of South Florida said that Flores suffered from severe post-traumatic stress disorder and that his accidental encounter with Kinder upset him.

Kinder pleaded guilty in 1992 to performing lewd acts on four boys, including Flores, and served six years behind bars.

DotComGuy available

TX DALLAS — Call it the DotComGuy bust.

The man who legally changed his name to DotComGuy changed it back Tuesday — to Mitch Madrox.

In 2000, Maddox spent one year at home and living off purchases made on the Internet. Video footage of his life was streamed on the Internet 24 hours a day and attracted worldwide media attention.

He later got married and on Tuesday he and his wife, Anne, appeared in court to legally change their names to Maddox.

Meanwhile, an auction for the DotComGuy name and the domain name dotcomguy-dot-com was to end in April, but it's been extended — and it's now on e-Bay.

Freeze! Pants up

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Daryl Miller didn't make it through airport security because he couldn't keep his pants on.

Airport police said a security screener was waving a metal-detecting wand over Miller's pants area on Friday when Miller pulled his shorts down to his ankles. He wasn't wearing any underwear.

Miller then said, "There, how do you like your job," thus ending the screening, according to the police report. He was charged with indecent exposure and released on \$300 bail.

"We've never had anybody do that before," said airport police Lt. Matt Christensen. "But it's not abnormal for people to be frustrated with the screening process."

Bear needs good home

MA BOSTON — City officials hope the city's smallest residents can help find a home for one of its biggest: a three-ton bronze teddy bear.

Children have clambered atop the 12-foot statue in front of the upscale FAO Schwarz toy store since 1991. After the chain filed for bankruptcy and vacated the store, the city secured the statue with the help of the building's owners.

On Tuesday, Mayor Tom Menino announced a contest for kids, asking them to suggest where the bear should go.

"This bear belongs to the children of Boston," Menino said.

"The children of Boston should decide where the bear goes."

Ohio execution

OH LUCASVILLE — A man was executed Wednesday after asking to be killed by shooting his girlfriend and their daughter, then refrigerating their bodies for a month in their apartment.

Stephen Vrabel, 47, was the second Ohio death row inmate since 1999 to drop his appeals to speed his execution. He was pronounced dead at 10:14 a.m. at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

Gov. Bob Taft on Monday declined to stop Vrabel's scheduled execution. The Ohio Parole Board had voted earlier against recommending clemency.

Vrabel shot Susan Clemente, 29, his girlfriend of about four years, and their daughter, 3-year-old Lisa Clemente, in March 1989 at their apartment in the Youngstown suburb of Struthers.

Vrabel never said why he shot Susan Clemente. He said he shot their daughter — whom he described as a "perfect child" — in part because she was "freaking out" about her mother's death.

Stories and photos from wire services



Marlon Brando started his screen career as a leading man and ended with a role as a woman. The late actor's last role was a voice performance for an animated comedy.

Brando ends film career as woman

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Marlon Brando started his screen career as a muscular leading man, and ended it as ... an elderly woman.

The actor's last role was a voice performance for the animated comedy "Big Bug Man," about a candy factory worker (Brendan Fraser) who gets superpowers after insects bite him. The film is set for release in 2006.

Brando voices Mrs. Sour, the candy company's owner and he did it wearing a blond wig and a dress, with full makeup and white gloves, according to writer-director Bob Bendetson.

"He was gorgeous," Bendetson said. "I guess it was part of his Method training or something, where you almost embarrass yourself as the character, so that way you're free to be the character. About halfway through, he took off the wig because he was getting too hot."

As anyone who saw the 1976 Western "The Missouri Breaks" knows, it wasn't the first time Brando was in drag. His hired-gun character unfortunately wore a pinaflore and bonnet. In 1996's "The Island of Dr. Moreau," Brando also overdressed on makeup with a performance buried under layers of white kabuki-style face paint.

"I think part of it was that he just liked to mess with people," Bendetson said. "He did like to be playful, but I think the other part was he thought this would just help his character."

Bendetson, formerly of "The Simpsons," said he originally approached Brando for the role of a money-grubbing 600-pound man who runs the candy factory on the cheap.

It turned out to be an offer "The Godfather" star COULD refuse.

Brando, who also starred in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "On the Waterfront," thought it would be fun to voice the old lady instead.



STUDIO FREE-STUDIOS/AP

Marlon Brando's animated character, Mrs. Sour, from the new comedy "Big Bug Man." Mrs. Sour is the owner of the candy company in the film set for release in 2006.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.com/dml/>

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2004					
(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Dr. Phil	The Mummy	Nightline	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	The Wild Thornberys	Ozzy & Drix "Growth"
9:30 Oprah Winfrey	As Told by Ginger	Headline News		SpongeBob	As Told by Ginger
10:00 Guiding Light	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!		The Simpsons	Jeopardy!
10:30 Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune	Mathews		Happy Days	Headline News
11:00 ESPNNews	ESPNNews	CNN Daybreak	SportsCenter	The Dead Zone "Deja Voodoo"	ESPNNews
11:30 General Hospital	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor		Pacific Report	Pacific Report
12:00 Headline News	The Simpsons	Malcolm in the Middle	Baseball Tonight	Boston Public "Chapter Twenty"	The Simpsons
12:30 Judge Judy	Judge Judy	The Apprentice		Malcolm in the Middle	Malcolm in the Middle
13:00 Today Paul Rudd: Baranek Ladies	The Apprentice	Good Morning America	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Crocodile Hunter (Part 2 of 2)	The Apprentice
14:00 The District "Blind-sided"	The District "Blind-sided"			World-Wildlife	Alias "Blowback"
14:30 House of Mouse	House of Mouse	Headline News		Animal Adventures	Animal Adventures
15:00 Rock's Modern Life	The Tonight Show	World News	SportsCenter	Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Normal Again"	Pacific Report
16:00 Ozzy & Drix "Growth"	The Tonight Show	The Early Show	Sports Reporters	The X-Files "Revolution"	The Tonight Show
16:30 As Told by Ginger	Late Show		Pardon the Interruption	Late Show	
17:00 Jeopardy!			SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberys	
17:30 Access Hollywood	Access Hollywood			Access Hollywood	
18:00 ESPNNews	Movie *** "Losing Las Vegas" (1995, Drama) Nicolas Cage, Elisabeth Shue, Julian Sands	FOX News	Golf British Open - Second Round From Royal Troon Golf Club in Scotland. (Same-day Tape)	Happy Days	Movie *** "Never Been Kissed" (1999, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, David Arquette
19:00 The Simpsons	Movie *** "Batman" (1989, Adventure) Michael Keaton, Jack Nicholson, Kim Basinger	FOX News		The Dead Zone "Deja Voodoo"	Movie *** "The Sons of Katie Elder" (1965, Western) John Wayne, Dean Martin
19:30 Malcolm in the Middle	Movie *** "Batman" (1989, Adventure) Michael Keaton, Jack Nicholson, Kim Basinger	Headline News		Boston Public "Chapter Twenty"	Movie *** "The Sons of Katie Elder" (1965, Western) John Wayne, Dean Martin
20:00 The Apprentice	Movie *** "Batman" (1989, Adventure) Michael Keaton, Jack Nicholson, Kim Basinger	Inside Politics		The Crocodile Hunter (Part 2 of 2)	World-Wildlife
21:00 Alias "Blowback"	Today Paul Rudd: Baranek Ladies	Headline News		Animal Adventures	Today Paul Rudd: Baranek Ladies
21:30 Headline News		Lester Holt		Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Normal Again"	
22:00 The Tonight Show					
23:00 Late Show					
SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2004					
00:00 (11:30) Late Show	Clifford's Puppy Days	Headline News	Golf British Open - Second Round	The X-Files "Revolution"	Clifford's Puppy Days
00:30 Access Hollywood	Little Bill (E)	NBC Nightly News		Little Bill (E)	Little Bill (E)
01:00 Rocket Power	Rocket Power	ABC Wide News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Rocket Power
1:30 Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	CBS Evening News		Scorby-Doo	Pokémon-John
2:00 Comedy Drive Barrymore, David Arquette	Pokémon-John	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Animal Flavors	Pokémon-John
2:30 Kenny the Shark (E)	Kenny the Shark (E)	Harmony & Colmes		A Makerover Story	Kenny the Shark (E)
3:00 Movie *** "The Sons of Katie Elder" (1965, Western) John Wayne, Dean Martin	Boxing Friday Night Fights - Kobo Gopladze vs. Anthony Mora (Live)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Trading Spaces Team sports designer's plan	Boxing Friday Night Fights - Kobo Gopladze vs. Anthony Mora (Live)
4:00 Headline News	SportsCenter	BET Nightly News		Everwood "The L Word"	SportsCenter
5:30 ESPNNews	WWE Raw	Business Rpt.		Strong Medicine "Flesh and Blood"	WWE Raw
6:00 Headline News	WWE Raw	Larry King Live		Strong Medicine "Flesh and Blood"	WWE Raw
7:00 Clifford's Puppy Days	Headline News	Newsnight With Aaron Brown	ESPNNews	Movie *** "My Best Friend's Wedding" (1997, Comedy) Julia Roberts, Dermot Mulroney	Headline News
7:30 Little Bill (E)	Corps News	Totally NASCAR	SportsCenter	Cosmo McGuinn Scout's Safari (E)	Corps News
8:00 Rocket Power	Sports Focus	Paula Zahn Now		Endurance (E)	Cosmo McGuinn Scout's Safari (E)
8:30 Scooby-Doo	Endurance (E)	Nightline		Endurance (E)	Endurance (E)
9:00 Pokémon-John	The Best Of	Army Newswatch		The Best Of	The Best Of
9:30 Kenny the Shark (E)	Entertainment Tonight	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Local Flavors	Entertainment Tonight
10:00 Lizzie McGuire	Focus on the Force	Dateline NBC		A Makerover Story	Local Flavors
10:30 Scout's Safari (E)	Headline News	SportsCenter		Headline News	A Makerover Story
11:00 Focus on the Force	Headline News	The O'Reilly Factor		Headline News	Headline News
12:00 The Best Of	My Wife and Kids	Half & Half		My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids
12:30 Entertainment Tonight	Half & Half	CHN Saturday Morning		Half & Half	Half & Half
13:00 WWE Raw	The West Wing "Access"	Baseball Tonight		The West Wing "Access"	The West Wing "Access"
14:00 My Wife and Kids	Law & Order: Everybody Loves Raymond's			Strong Medicine "Flesh and Blood"	Law & Order: Everybody Loves Raymond's
14:30 Half & Half	Headline News	Today		Headline News	Headline News
15:00 The West Wing "Access"	Saturday Night Live	Golf British Open - Third Round From Royal Troon Golf Club in Scotland. (Same-day Tape)		Movie *** "My Best Friend's Wedding" (1997, Comedy) Julia Roberts, Dermot Mulroney	Saturday Night Live
16:00 Law & Order: Everybody Loves Raymond's	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends	Wall Street Journal		The View	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends
17:00 Headline News	Great Outdoor Games From Madison, Wis.	ESPNNews		Local Flavors	Great Outdoor Games From Madison, Wis.
17:30 Corps News	ESPN 20/20 X Games Preview	Headline News		A Makerover Story	ESPN 20/20 X Games Preview
18:00 SportsCenter	Wire to Wire	Army Newswatch		Trading Spaces Team sports designer's plan	Wire to Wire
19:00 MLB Baseball: Regional Coverage - Philadelphia Phillies at New York Mets or St. Louis Cardinals at Cincinnati Reds. (Live)	Headline News	20/20		Everwood "The L Word"	Headline News
21:00 Hour of Power	Celebration of Victory	FOX News		Hour of Power	Celebration of Victory
22:00 MLB Baseball: Regional Coverage - Philadelphia Phillies at Athletics or Padres at Astros	Coral Ridge Hour	FOX News		Strong Medicine "Flesh and Blood"	Coral Ridge Hour
23:00 Christopher Closeup	Cite Video			Movie *** "My Best Friend's Wedding"	Christopher Closeup
23:30				Cite Video	

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STARS AND STRIPES

FACES 'N' PLACES

New direction for Tarantino's love life

At the Cannes Film Festival in May, director Quentin Tarantino announced, "Cienia, mon amour!" It appears he may have another love in his life.

Tarantino and filmmaker Sofia Coppola are "seeing each other," Bumble Ward, publicist for both, confirmed Tuesday.

They "enjoy each other's company," Ward told The Associated Press.

Earlier this year, Coppola, 33, won the Oscar for best original screenplay for "Lost in Translation." Tarantino won the screenplay Oscar in 1995 for "Pulp Fiction."

The couple were recently photographed together in Madrid, Spain, where the 41-year-old Tarantino was promoting the second installment of his bloody revenge series, "Kill Bill."

Tarantino is the third director in Coppola's life. She's the daughter of Oscar-winning director Francis Ford Coppola, and was married to director Spike Jonze ("Adaptation" and "Being John Malkovich") for four years.

WB stars to wed

The stars of "One Tree Hill" are going to make it a two-some.

Chad Michael Murray announced Monday that he and his WB co-star Sophia Bush are engaged to be married. Both performers are 22.

The actor, now promoting the romantic comedy "A Cinderella Story," made the revelation on CBS' "The Late Late Show With Craig Kilborn."

Murray said he popped the question while they were in Australia, where he was finishing work on the movie "House of Wax."

"I had like 500 candles ... and my assistant ... he had to light all the candles while I had to basically take her to a spa and keep her out of the house until the sun went down," Murray said. "I had a bunch of roses and I put lights down on a tennis court that spelled something out for her," he said.

Murray wouldn't specify what the message read.

"Dude, that's for her ... I'd love to tell you, but that's just for my girl."

Bergman making final stage exit

Ingmar Bergman, one of the great masters of modern film, celebrated his 86th birthday Wednesday with a sour gift for fans — an announcement that he's retiring from the stage.

Bergman said his 2002 production of Henrik Ibsen's "Ghost" at Sweden's Royal Dramatic Theatre would be his last.

"After 'Ghost,' I decided that this must be it. I do not want them to carry me out of the theater. I'm leaving by myself," he said in an interview with the newspaper Dagens Nyheter. "Nobody will need to say, 'Now the old man has to quit.'"

Presley women survive star trap

Life after Elvis is far from heartbreak hotel for the Presley women.

In the August issue of Vogue, three generations of Presleys — Priscilla, her daughter, Lisa Marie, and Lisa Marie's daughter, Danielle Keough — candidly discuss their lives.

Lisa Marie, Elvis' daughter turned pop star, expressed relief that her teenage daughter, who uses her middle name, Riley, hadn't turned out like Paris Hilton.

In April 2003, Lisa Marie said similar things about Paris and her sister, Nicky, to the Los Angeles Times: "Those two are the epitome of what my mother raised me not to be. I don't know what they've done. Maybe it's the bleach that fascinates people."

Priscilla, the famed ex-wife of Elvis, isn't so quick to judge. "Some celebrities' children have done very well, and some are still struggling," the 59-year-old tells the magazine. "It's a very difficult position to be in."

Riley, Lisa Marie's daughter from her marriage to Danny Keough, is just beginning a modeling career.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Coppola



Murray



Lisa Marie Presley

Patriotism and the silenced minority



Some country stars, like Toby Keith, right, have found success with pro-war, pro-military songs. Others, like Willie Nelson, have found it difficult to crack the airwaves with anti-war songs.

Country radio embracing pro-war songs while shutting out opposing viewpoints

BY JOHN GEROME
The Associated Press

COUNTRY music artists are hardly united in their support of the war in Iraq — but you'd never know it from listening to the radio.

While Toby Keith, Darryl Worley and Charlie Daniels have scored hits with patriotic, war-themed songs, others such as Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and Nanci Griffith released anti-war, or at least questioning, songs that went nowhere.

"Country radio does enough research that they understand listeners are supportive of the military in Iraq and just don't want to get involved with those songs," said John Hart, president of Nashville-based Bullseye Marketing Research.

"I work with 32 stations, and I have not seen one test any of these anti-war songs."

But the patriotic tunes that were everywhere at the beginning of the military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq have slowed. John Michael Montgomery's touching "Letters from Home" is the only current chart hit with a war theme, and it is neither an angry call to arms nor a love letter to America.

Hart believes the flag-waving songs reached a saturation point. He also says the continuing hostilities in Iraq and recent prison abuse scandal may have tempered the enthusiasm expressed early in the conflict.

"I think right now the labels and radio feel they have come to a line in the sand where they need to slow down," Hart said. "And the artists are hesitant to release anything right now that they think might be overkill."

At the recent Country Music Association Music Festival in Nashville, liberal comedian Al Franken said the backlash against the Dixie Chicks after lead singer Natalie Maines criticized President Bush on a London stage last year had a chilling effect on what people felt they could or couldn't say in country music.

"And that's too bad," Franken said. "I think people should be free to express their politics."

Worley, too, cited the Dixie Chicks' incident.

"They made a pretty strong statement about the president, and we haven't heard much of them on country radio, either. There is a silent majority in this country, and it is a whole lot stronger than people might think."

Country artists are regarded as more conservative than those in other genres, but there are exceptions. Alt-country icons Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Rosanne Cash and Linda Williams lent their names to a petition by the protest group Musicians United to Win Without War. Respected songwriters Rodney Crowell and The Mavericks' Raul Malo have been frank about their opposition to the president. A new group called the Music Row Democrats formed this year to give a political voice to country songwriters, musicians, producers and record executives.

Still, the few country songs that have expressed reservations about Iraq have failed to click.

Worley believes some of that has to do with the artists releasing them, noting that veteran singers such as Nelson and Haggard have had trouble cracking the charts with any kind of song in recent years.

But marketer Research Hart thinks it is more than that. He says an anti-war song by a hot contemporary artist would fizzle as well because of the conservative tilt of country audiences.

"I've been in country music since 1972, and I think every conflict is there," said Hart, a Vietnam veteran. "Every time we bomb somebody it's 'Hell yeah!' Let's kick their ... 'That's where country music is coming from.'"

Singer Kenny Rogers, whose group The First Edition had one of the most poignant hits of the Vietnam era with "Ruby," a dark tale about a crippled Vietnam veteran whose woman is cheating on him, says the political climate today is much different than in the 1960s and '70s.

"People are afraid to write about it, and people are afraid to play it," Rogers said. "I don't know of a successful song that has said 'We need to stop this,'" he said. "But I do think if one were written well and had an honest thought process behind it and was not strictly politically driven, radio would play it."

Horoscope

Mars and Neptune exchange strong vibes, inviting one another to show off their talents. Mars wants us to take strong, decisive action, whereas Neptune begs us to latch onto more ethereal concepts and dream bigger, even if our plans aren't actually feasible. Wait until tomorrow's new moon to between practical and possibility thinking.

Joyce Jillion



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 16). Your confidence and self-esteem are off the charts this year, helping you build friendships that will carry you toward your life purpose.

Positive influences go far to bringing you toward your goals — you'll find many of those in an educational setting.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though it would be so easy to get caught up in how and why you landed in this place, stay attentive to what is happening now. If you can stay present, new clarity helps you develop a workable action plan.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a big respecter of privacy. But you may not be able to contain your curiosity about a situation any longer. Remember what happened to the cat! Before you ask a lot of questions, consider what you might be getting into.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got the energy to move forward, but there will be delays. No worries — these only help you make more thorough plans and also give you the chance to review and be sure before you finalize decisions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The day starts not with a bang but with a burst of diligence and elbow grease. Even if all you do is prep work today, it's the most productive day you've had in a long time. Details fall right into place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Many people will be competing for the same result, and only a small num-

ber will be able to attain it. Such odds don't scare you, though. Mahatma Gandhi said, "There would be nothing to frighten you if you refused to be afraid."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your emotions are volatile. Take time to cool off whenever you need it. Putting around the house is just the remedy to take your mind off worries and ease you into a productive mood. Tonight, you're magnetic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Re-define your aims, goals and objectives. Even if you spend the whole day thinking, drawing, planning, making charts and researching — and do nothing that makes you any money — you'll be far ahead for the effort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've got much to do and won't be able to handle it all alone. Begin the day by delegating to whoever seems willing. A flirtation with an Aries or Leo featured. Even you are surprised by your own nerve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get domestic annoyances out of your life once and for all. Cleaning out your house helps you move forward. Also, forgive loved ones of whatever it was they did to get you mad. Resentments only restrain you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll build on your former expectations and create a new one that overshadows anything you've dared to dream in the past. Just because you envision something doesn't mean you'll get it, but it certainly increases your chances!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Develop your powers of creativity! Whether applied to your love life or your professional life, your increased compassion will make you rich. Practice visualizing life from another person's point of view. You'll find solutions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're focused on the practicalities of life. After all, they must be handled in order for you to relax and dream. Lists, visualization, organizing and just doing will make a huge difference in your world.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



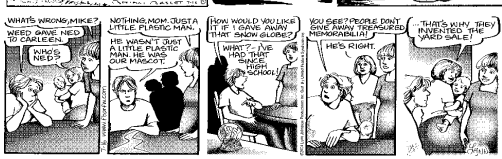
Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



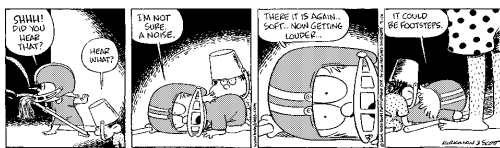
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



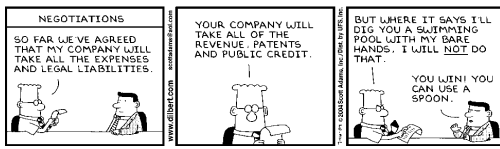
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



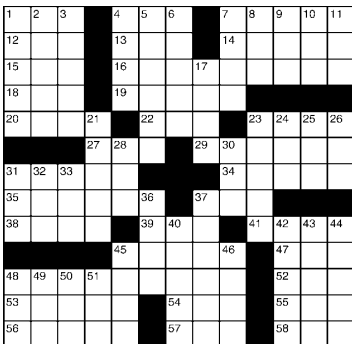
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Anecdotal collection
- 4 Spreadsheet, e.g.
- 7 Trattoria entree
- 12 Judo degree
- 13 Bill's partner
- 14 Slip
- 15 Schlep
- 16 Grassy garment
- 18 Anger
- 19 Poet's Muse
- 20 Idea symbol
- 22 Tide rival
- 23 Icicle's place
- 27 Blazed the trail
- 29 — out (broke)
- 31 Accordion feature
- 34 Loves not wisely but too well
- 35 Picture in pieces
- 37 "Friends" cast member
- 38 Lady Macbeth's dog?
- 39 "Eureka!"
- 41 Guru's discipline
- 45 Sleep soundly?
- 47 Craze
- 48 Bikini pattern
- 52 Back
- 53 Tammany Hall boss
- 54 Energy
- 55 Undergo recession
- 56 Isolated
- 57 Curning
- 58 Canape topper

Down

- 1 Improvise
- 2 Pleasant Island, today
- 3 Roma Downey portrayal
- 4 Liniment target
- 5 Decanted
- 6 On top of the world?
- 7 Mexican money
- 8 Torah repository
- 9 Lanka lead-in
- 10 Crazy peak
- 11 Illustrations
- 17 Rat tail?
- 21 Explosion
- 23 Strong hold?
- 24 Suitable
- 25 Churchill gesture
- 26 Mag. staffers
- 28 EWR info
- 30 Commotion
- 31 Nightwear
- 32 Back talk
- 33 Swelled head
- 36 Musical staff?
- 37 Industrial group
- 40 B-ball
- 42 Bid
- 43 Mata Hari portrayal
- 44 Pueblo material
- 45 "Smooth Operator" singer
- 46 Catch sight of
- 48 Sch. org.
- 49 Bam dweller
- 50 Author Buscaglia
- 51 Barbie's ex

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-16

CRYPTOQUIP

D G S O B D R F S P Q S K B P B S
P I S O B K I F S S B S P T G
R B G S F . B G S Z T R C Q M

K P Z "GRCKS XB IRXOI!"
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I ASSUME A MARRIAGE THAT HAS BEEN OUTLAWED COULD BE CALLED A WEDDING BANNED.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: I equals G

Let the man do some pursuing

Dear Abby: I met a man on a business trip recently.

I'll call him Ray. We spent a little over a week together and had a wonderful time. After I returned home, we decided we'd try a long-distance "whatever." (It was never defined.) The following weekend I paid to fly Ray here, and it was great. It seemed like things were heating up. Two weeks later I arranged a weekend getaway for Ray, myself, his son and the son's friend. Again, I paid for my own everything. Another co-worker had relocated there and joined us. We went to a sporting event, and when we reached the ticket window, Ray said he had only enough money to pay for himself and the kids. Naturally, I paid for my own admission. My co-worker said, "I can't believe you put up with him!" I ignored the comment.

The next day, he said he just wanted to be friends. (No problem.) Last night, while we were

online he switched screen names. I made a comment, kidding, "Trying to hide from me? (lol)" He went nuts! He sent an instant message that this is why he doesn't date. When I tried to respond, I found he had blocked my messages.

Don't you agree that I deserve some explanation?

— Stupid When It Comes to Men

Dear "Stupid": For openers, I'd erase his e-mail address from my computer. Then I'd take a long, hard look at what had happened since I met the man. Once you decided you liked him, you went overboard. You made all the arrangements.

You paid for everything. When he backed off, you didn't.

I don't know whether or not he was trying to avoid you when he switched his screen name, but you may have hit the nail on the head. Next time, be less aggressive. Let the man do some of the

pursuing. When something comes too easily, it often isn't valued.

Dear Abby: We are invited to a renewing of the wedding vows of a couple who have been married for 10 years.

We are trying to figure out if we have to give them another gift, since we gave them one when they were first married. Please help us out.

— Baffled in Brooklyn

Dear Baffled: Call the couple and ask if (and where) they are registered. This will give them the chance to tell you whether or not gifts are expected.

"A renewal of vows" could be considered a fancy anniversary party, and if you attend, you should mark the occasion with some sort of gift. It doesn't have to be expensive — it could be a photograph of you and the couple with a short paragraph sharing a happy memory.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARVEG

CALVO

ASHRIP

TIFLE

Answers: A " " " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VALVE HOVEL LARYNX VIABLE

Answer: How the planetarium worker described his work — "HEAVENLY"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

The 800/900 now have been DISCONTINUED.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the strange answer suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Daughter has an eye for bad boys

Dear Annie: My 21-year-old daughter, "Misty," is socially immature. She always has been attracted to the "bad" boys who lack ambition, motivation, jobs, cars and families. We wonder why she is drawn to this type, since Misty was brought up with scads of love and attention. She has no reason to feel that she doesn't deserve a boy with a positive future.

Misty's latest romance is with a young man of 25 who has no family in the area and works as a waiter at a coffee shop. He has no car and seems to be staying with a friend. In other words, he is one couch short of homeless. Misty has begun describing this fellow as her fiance, although we've heard nothing about an engagement. The worst part is that her sister and I have a gut feeling about the guy that scares us. We've never felt this way about any of Misty's other boyfriends, but this one seems dishonest, although we have no

Annie's Mailbox



evidence to back up our fears. We have talked about our feelings with Misty, but she insists the creep treats her like a queen. He now is pushing for her to let him move into her place.

I have asked Misty to think carefully before she gets engaged or married, and to give this relationship a little more time before she lets him move in.

— Misty-Eyed Mom

Dear Mom: We trust your gut instincts that the current beau is a creep, but that isn't going to be enough for Misty to drop him.

Perhaps she was raised to be a confident young woman, but she nonetheless lacks a healthy sense of self-worth.

Misty needs to know her mother not only loves her, but has faith in her. Your worries may be justified, but your criticism of Misty's romantic choices is undermining her decisions, and she is tuning you out. Is there someone Misty respects enough to

listen to about this? Her father perhaps? A girlfriend, employer or the family clergyman? In the meantime, get to know the creep. It might help.

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from a 13-year-old girl whose teeth were discolored. You suggested she talk to her parents and her dentist about whitening them. I have been told by more than one dentist that a child should not attempt to bleach his or her teeth until age 18. Is it true? My 10-year-old wants to bleach his teeth.

— Tooth Fairy in the Dark

Dear Tooth Fairy: Teeth whitening is not recommended for children under the age of 12. Teenagers under 18 should be evaluated individually by their dentist to see if they are eligible for whitening procedures.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045 Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



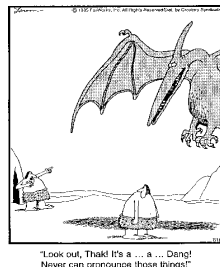
"These wild flowers look pretty tame to me."



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



"Look out, Thak! It's a... a... Dang! Never can pronounce those things!"

Non Sequitur



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U.S. swimming at high tide

Gold goal is now eight as Phelps decides against 200 backstroke

BY BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Six world records were set during the U.S. Olympic swimming trials, raising already-high expectations of another big American medal haul in Athens.

Four years ago, the United States team led all nations with 14 gold and 33 medals overall. Much of the pressure in Athens will be on Michael Phelps, who said Wednesday he will swim five individual events and up to three relays in his attempt to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals in an Olympics.

Phelps gave up his spot in the 200-meter backstroke, putting Bryce Hunt on his first Olympic team. Hunt finished third in the trials behind Aaron Peirsol, who broke his own world record, and Phelps.

"I'm pretty excited," Hunt said. "People were telling me that he might drop out of the 200 backstroke, but I didn't think it was going to happen. I just hope I can bring back a medal."

So does Jenny Thompson, who won the 50 freestyle on the final night of the eight-day trials. She had already qualified in the 100 butterfly.

Jenny Thompson, who made her fourth Olympic team at 31, won in 25:02 seconds, while Kara Lynn Joyce finished second (25:11) to earn the second Olympic berth.

Thompson has won 10 medals — more than any other U.S. woman — but her eight golds have all been in relays.



Michael Phelps will be swimming to equal or top Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals in an Olympics.

Individually, Thompson has been limited to a silver and a bronze, both in the 100 free. She failed to qualify for that event in the trials, the two spots going to Joyce and Natalie Coughlin.

"I feel like I'll be complete whether I win an individual gold medal or not," said Thompson, who is likely to be part of the relay teams again. "I'm just going to try to soak up as much of the atmosphere as possible. The first time I went, it was kind of a whirlwind."

Coughlin, swimming in the 50 after qualifying in two other events, finished sixth at 25:31.

"I'm very happy," she said. "I had three best times in 1½ days and I learned a lot of good things for my 100 free."

Larsen Jensen set an American record in the 1,500 freestyle, becoming the third U.S. man to go under 15 minutes at 14:56.71. He bettered the mark of 14:56.81 that earned Chris Thompson a bronze medal in the 2000 Olympics.

The 18-year-old Jensen is a rising star of distance swimming, though he'll have his work cut out for him in Athens. The Australians, led by Grant Hackett, have dominated the mile.

Hackett's world record (14:34.56) is more than 22 seconds faster than Jensen's winning swim in Long Beach.

"It shows how far ahead he is in the sport of distance swimming," Jensen said. "We're behind. The whole world is behind."

Erik Vendt claimed the second spot in the 1,500 at 15:11.96.

Chris Thompson got into the final because another swimmer scratched but finished far back in seventh at 15:44.57. He didn't have enough time to prepare after fracturing both elbows during a training mishap in May.

USA Swimming selected the staff that will work with head coaches Eddie Reese (men) and Mark Schubert (women) in Athens. The assistants include Bob Bowman, Phelps' personal coach, and Teri McKeever, the first woman coach ever picked for the team.

"If you had told me this five years or even three years ago, I wouldn't have believed it," said McKeever, who coaches Coughlin.

The team begins its training camp at Stanford University on Thursday.

BCS tweak gives polls bigger role

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

The Associated Press poll will count for one-third of each team's ranking under the new formula that Bowl Championship Series officials unveiled Thursday in their latest attempt to find a simpler, more equitable way to determine a national champion.

Under the new formula, which begins this season, the AP writers' poll, the coaches' poll and a combination of computer rankings will each count for one-third of a team's overall BCS ranking.

Strength of schedule, team record and quality victories, three components used under the old system, have been eliminated. "In analyzing the BCS standings, we wanted to develop a ranking formula that would be simpler and more precise," BCS chairman Kevin Webberg, the commissioner of the Big 12 Conference, said.

In three of the last four seasons, there have been at least three teams with legitimate claims for a spot in the BCS title game. Last year resulted in a split national championship, with LSU winning the BCS title over Oklahoma and Southern California protecting its top ranking in the AP poll by defeating Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

Coaches who vote in the USA Today-ESPN poll are obligated to select the winner of the BCS title game, the national champion. Writers in the AP poll are under no such obligation.

BCS officials consulted mathematicians to help come up with a new formula that would give them a better chance at selecting the top two teams in both polls meet in their title game.

"This formula goes a long way to eliminate some of the controversy surrounding previous matchups as we continue to improve upon the system," Webberg said.

The new formula will no longer average the weekly rank of each team. Instead, teams will be evaluated on the number of voting points received in each poll. A team's score in the AP poll will be divided by 1,800, which is the maximum any team can receive. A team's score in the coaches' poll will be divided by 1,500.

The final component will come from six computer rankings. A team's highest and lowest computer ranking will be thrown out and the other four will be used to determine a figure to add to those from the two polls.

Had the new system been in place last year, it would have pitted USC and LSU in the title game. In 2001, Miami would have played the best and lowest ranked team, which made it over the Ducks despite a late-season 62-36 loss to Colorado that knocked the Cornhuskers' season out of the picture. In 2000, the game would have pitted Oklahoma and Florida State — the two teams that made it to Miami being left out despite having won the game and having handed the Seminoles their only loss of the season.

Miller's road to Athens 200 meters long

BY ANDREA ADELSON
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Inger Miller has one more shot.

The sprinter felt good about her chances to qualify for the Olympics in the 100 meters in the U.S. trials after a good performance during the quarterfinals.

But when it came time for the semifinal Saturday, everything went wrong. Miller ate some bad food at breakfast and threw up twice. She failed to make the final, finishing sixth.

"I got really sick," Miller said. "I tried to rehydrate, but there wasn't anything left in the tank. I felt dead. I was disappointed and devastated."

Miller has another chance to qualify for the Athens Games, this time in the 200. The quarterfinals on Friday and Miller will face familiar competition: namely Marion Jones, the seemingly vulnerable star who also hopes to

earn a trip to Athens in the long jump.

Jones was a disappointing seventh in qualifying Tuesday in the long jump, which is not her strongest event. She also failed to make the Olympics in the 100, and will compete in the 200, but she has hardly raced that distance this season.

Her rare appearance in the 200 even made Miller forget Jones was a contender. Asked to hand-pick the 200 field, Miller listed Crystal Cox, Allyson Felix, Torri Edwards and 100 champion LaTasha Colander as her toughest competition.

Asked whether she left out Jones on purpose, Miller said the oversight was inadvertent. Having not to think about her rival also could be a plus, considering that Miller, 32, is desperate to make it back to the Olympics.

In 1996, she was on the 400 relay team that won gold in Atlanta, but had to withdraw from the

2000 Sydney Olympics because of a strained hamstring after making it in the 100 and 200. The finished second in both events in the trials to Jones.

No matter what happens this week, the 1999 world champion in the 200 has no plans to retire. "As long as my body holds up, I still have love for the sport," Miller said. "There's no reason for me to quit any time soon. I'm enjoying doing this. At this point, there is no limit."

Is there a limit to what Jones can handle? The rest of the world wants to know what is going to happen to the former shining star.

She has refused to talk with the media except for one comment after she was chased outside the stadium following her loss in the 100. With the competition in the 200 stretching into the middle of the trials, Jones will be the leading story through the weekend.

There are other people to

watch during the final four days of competition. Stacy Dragila, the overwhelming favorite in the pole vault, starts competing Friday. She is ready to face two young Russians in Athens. Yelena Isinbayeva and Svetlana Feofanova have emerged with big jumps. Each has broken the world record Dragila used to own.

Feofanova holds the outdoor mark after becoming the first woman to jump over 16 feet on July 4 in Iraklio, Crete.

"Right now I'm in the mix with them, and I'm ready for that challenge," Dragila said. "I'm ready to step up to the plate."

Also Friday, world champion Tom Pappas begins his decathlon competition and qualifying in the men's 200 starts as well. World champion John Capel goes against Justin Gatlin and Shawn Crawford, who already qualified for Athens in the 100.

The eight-day meet concludes Sunday with 10 finals. The top three in each event qualify.

Aging gracefully

Bonds still going strong as he approaches another milestone — his 40th birthday

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds speaks more these days about his aching body and fatigued legs than any of his amazing milestones.

He rarely runs out ground balls anymore. In fact, if he's certain he'll be out, there are times he makes it only a few feet down the first-base line.

This is how the slugger saves energy as he approaches his 40th birthday on July 24.

"I'm tired," he said recently. "I'm tired every time I play."

But he's not deterred.

"I'm playing good," he said. "I've just got to keep it going."

Even in his 19th major league season, Bonds remains the most feared hitter in baseball.

There are certain situations in a game if you have a choice, you don't want to get beat by Barry Bonds," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "I've felt that way for a couple years now."

"That shows the respect I have for him as a player, and rightfully so. ... You give him too many chances to beat you and he eventually will."

This season has been like none before for Bonds, who last year won his record sixth NL MVP award. He has faced constant questions about whether he re-

ceived a boost from performance-enhancing drugs, "he's walking more than ever — and this is the first year he hasn't had his father, Bobby, around to cheer him on."

It hasn't seemed to faze him.

"He's had a tremendous first half," manager Felipe Alou said. "He scored over 60 runs, and they let him drive in 40. He's playing a lot of baseball this year, a lot of games."

Bonds passed godfather Willie Mays for third on the career homers list early in the year and now has 681, including 23 this season. Only Hank Aaron (735) and Babe Ruth (714) stand ahead of him — and as long as Bonds has his health, those marks clearly are

within reach.

How does Bonds feel as he approaches 40? "I don't know," he said. "I'll feel like I'm 40 on July 24."

Earlier this month, Bonds passed Rickey Henderson to become baseball's career walks leader. He has 131 walks this season — 71 intentional passes — ready breaking his own major league record — and is on pace to shatter this season and record of 198 set in 2002.

"He is amazing, because of the fact he doesn't get a lot of pitches to hit, and when he does, he hits it," Giants catcher A.J. Pierzynski said. "You still look at him in awe. He's so good. It doesn't mat-

ter if he's 22 or 52."

Bonds played only 130 games last season as he dealt with the August death of his father from cancer. Bonds rarely was in the lineup for day games that followed night games.

This year, he has been playing day games after night games most of the time. And Alou has said he will need to find times to rest Bonds in the second half.

"One of his keys to staying healthy and playing every day year after year has been his management of his legs," trainer Stan Conte said.

Bonds sat out the Giants' final game before the All-Star Game, where he went 0-for-2 with a walk.

Can Bonds keep up the pace down the stretch, with the Giants fighting for their fourth playoff appearance in five seasons?

"I have no idea," he said. "We've played great. [During the break], take three days off and do what you need to heal and rest, messages or whatever you want to do to get your mind right for the second half. It seems like the second half goes a lot faster than the first half."

"I feel tired, exhausted. With the circumstances with this team, that's what's needed, and I do what's needed."

Over the last month, Bonds began getting significant help from his teammates. Edgardo Alfonzo is coming up big batting behind Bonds, others are getting timely hits and the pitching staff is gaining consistency behind superstar Jason Schmidt.

After trailing in the NL West by



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds will turn 40 on July 24, but he remains the most feared hitter in baseball and has his sights set on passing Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron for the career home run record.

eight games in May, the Giants entered the break at 49-40, a half-game behind Los Angeles. San Francisco led the division from opening day last season on the way to the organization's first 100-win season in 10 years.

"It's good to see there are other people besides Barry and (Jason) Schmidt on the team," reliever Jim Brower said. "We have a great supporting cast."

Still, Bonds is the one player to see.

"He's incredible," Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda said. "I don't think anybody's ever going

to be like that in this lifetime. He's a credit to the game."

At least someone has his sights on bettering Bonds. This nice note greets the slugger every day at his corner locker in the clubhouse: "Dear Barry, Congratulations. 660 is awesome. Love you, Darren Baker."

"I will hit 800 home runs."

And Bonds can't wait to see what Dusty Baker's young son will do. When his career ends, Bonds plans to be around to show his support for the next generation of power hitters.

But for now, he has several goals still to reach — no matter how old and tired he might be.

With Williams out, Astros have no more excuses

BY MATT YOUNG

Scripts Howard News Service

HOUSTON — Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio and company. It's your serve.

Now, do something with it.

That's basically what the Houston Astros management said Wednesday, when it finally pulled the plug on Williams and brought in Phil Garner on an emergency basis.

The good news: The man Houston fans love to hate is gone.

The bad news (at least for the players): No more excuses. The additions of Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte and Carlos Beltrán made the Astros an underwhelming .500 ballclub, or, two games worse than the Milwaukee Brewers. More importantly, it put them 10½ games in back of the St. Louis Cardinals and behind eight teams in the wild card chase.

Hey, no one promised you a rose garden, Phil.

Even in a stretch where the Astros

played their worst ball since the days when Casey Candaele started an entire season at second base, Williams was the criticism magnet that kept the boos concentrated firmly on the top step of the Astros dugout and off the guys on the field.

Now that the crusty Williams has left town with a pink slip stuffed in his pocket, there's going to be no one else for the players to point the finger at, unless the finger-pointers are standing in front of one of the clubhouse's full-length mirrors.

"It's time for the players to be held accountable for what they do on the baseball field," said Astros General Manager Gerry Hunsicker, during Wednesday's news conference at Minute Maid Field. "It's time for them to step up and take responsibility for what happens on the field, and at the end of this season — win, lose or draw — the players will hold the most accountability for what happens."

Hunsicker admitted Williams' fate had been decided last weekend when he and McLane watched their team lose three out of four in Los Angeles and not look very competitive doing so.

However with the All-Star Game in town, the decision had to be put on hold so as not to take away from the big event's love fest.

It was a practical idea, but it made for an oddly uncomfortable moment when the hometown fans rained down boos on Williams during the game's pregame introductions.

Williams just isn't an embraceable man. Even if he won, his personality wouldn't endear him.

That's where Garner comes in. The son of a Baptist preacher at a Houston church, Garner has the southern personality McLane loves.

During Wednesday's news conference, Garner even thanked the media for being understanding when he had to issue "no comments" to reporters who went looking for him as rumors of his arrival started to swirl Tuesday.

Williams just as soon would have jumped in a rolling barrel of razor blades than heard the media for anything.

Garner's likability is a positive, but it doesn't mean he comes without flaws.

He led the Brewers to an overachieving 92 wins in 1992, but he also had teams in Milwaukee and Detroit head south on him in a hurry.

None of that matters though.

This was a desperate situation.

Williams had to go, and he had to be replaced instantly by someone who could jump into the dugout without a life vest.

Garner, who has lived in Houston for the past 30 years, is familiar with the players and was available to start on a moment's notice.

"We don't have time to fool around here," said Hunsicker, who stressed that Garner would carry the interim tag the rest of the season and the job search would be reopened in the offseason. "We need to get it done. We needed someone with some familiarity with our team and some familiarity with managing a club. Finally, we were looking for someone with a personality that could take decisive action when called for."

Phil Garner had all those components, and he was the obvious choice.

Now, the Astros just hope he can manage.

Commentary

Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	49	31	.613	—
Boston	48	38	.558	7
Tampa Bay	42	45	.483	13½
Toronto	39	49	.443	17
Baltimore	37	48	.435	17½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	46	38	.548	—
Minnesota	47	40	.540	½
Cleveland	42	45	.483	5½
Detroit	42	46	.483	5½
Kansas City	31	54	.365	15½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	49	37	.570	—
Oakland	47	39	.547	2
Anaheim	47	40	.540	2½
Seattle	32	54	.372	17

Tuesday's game

All-Star Game

American League v. National League 4

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled

Thursday's games

Baltimore at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Yankees at Detroit
Minnesota at Kansas City
Cleveland at Seattle
Boston at Anaheim
Chicago White Sox at Oakland
(Pittsburgh 6-7)
Baltimore (Cabrera 6-3) at Tampa Bay
(Baltimore 6-7)
N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez 10-5) at Detroit (Marin 5-7)
Toronto (Halladay 7-6) at Texas (Rogers 12-3)
Minnesota (Santana 7-5) at Kansas City (May 6-9)
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 9-2) at Oakland (Cfio 4-7)
Cleveland (Westbrook 6-4) at Seattle (Blackley 1-1)
(P.M. Marlins 2-3) at Anaheim (Escobar 5-5)

Saturday's games

Minnesota at Kansas City
Chicago White Sox at Oakland
N.Y. Yankees at Detroit
Boston at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at Seattle
Chicago White Sox at Oakland
Minnesota at Kansas City
Toronto at Texas

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	41	35	.539	1
Florida	45	42	.517	1½
Atlanta	43	45	.489	2½
Montreal	31	56	.356	15

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	54	33	.621	—
Chicago	47	40	.539	7½
San Diego	47	41	.534	7½
Milwaukee	40	45	.473	8½
Houston	34	44	.438	10½
Pittsburgh	39	47	.453	14½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	48	38	.558	—
San Francisco	49	40	.551	½
San Diego	37	41	.474	2½
Colorado	36	51	.414	12½
Arizona	31	56	.348	18½

Tuesday's game

All-Star Game

American League v. National League 4

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled

Thursday's games

Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
St. Louis at Cincinnati
Montreal at Atlanta
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
San Francisco at Colorado
Los Angeles at Arizona
(Clement 7-8)
Florida (J.Burnett 1-3) at Pittsburgh (Benson 6-7)
Chicago (Millwood 6-5) at N.Y. Mets (Soto 1-2)
St. Louis (W. Williams 6-6) at Cincinnati (Wilson 5-2)
Montreal (Armas Jr. 6-7) at Atlanta (Byrd 2-1)
Los Angeles (Peay 5-3) at Houston (Pettitte 4-2)
San Francisco (Rutler 5-6) at Colorado (Eaton 4-2)
Los Angeles (Ishi 10-4) at Arizona (Webb 3-9)

Saturday's games

Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
St. Louis at Cincinnati
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
Los Angeles at Arizona
Montreal at Atlanta
Florida at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Houston
San Francisco at Colorado
San Francisco at Colorado
Los Angeles at Arizona

Surprises expected in second half

Yankees appear to be only sure thing as teams gear up for fall

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Almost everybody was stunned to see Roger Clemens knocked around in the All-Star Game. The second half of the season could be filled with big surprises, too.

Texas and St. Louis are in first place. San Diego and the New York Mets are only two games out. And Randy Johnson could shake up the entire pennant race if he's traded by the lowly Arizona Diamondbacks.

The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox are sure to make a run at him, adding another chapter to their storied rivalry. Or perhaps another team, maybe Anaheim, will pry him away before the July 31 non-waiver deadline.

"This isn't the Florida State League, where the first-half winner automatically gets a berth in the playoffs," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "We have to keep the pedal to the metal, and you're always concerned about what Boston or others may do. I'll continue to make phone calls and see what's cooking."

Looking for its seventh consecutive AL East title, New York has a seven-game cushion over the Red Sox, who lead the wild-card race by a slim margin.

Yet the Yankees are in need of starting pitching and have openly coveted Johnson, the five-year Cy Young Award winner who has five career postseason victories over New York.

The 40-year-old left-hander, who pitched a perfect game in Atlanta on May 18, is stuck with a team with the worst record in the majors. He's making \$16 million this season and is due \$16 million in 2005, the final year of his contract. And he said during the All-Star break that he would consider waiving his no-trade clause if Arizona wanted to send him to a contender.

Sounds like a perfect match for



Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa carry two of baseball's most potent bats into the second half of the season.

one of baseball's big spenders — and maybe a relief for everybody in the National League.

"There's not that many difference-makers out there. Lord willing, they're all going to the Red Sox or the Yankees anyway," San Francisco general manager Brian Sabean said.

Led by Barry Bonds and Jason Schmidt, Sabean's Giants are in the thick of a three-team race in the NL West, wedged right between first-place Los Angeles and third-place San Diego.

The NL East is just as muddled. Three teams are within two games of first-place Philadelphia, including the surprising Mets.

Atlanta, seeking its 13th straight division title, is only a game back, just ahead of Florida.

"It's a four-team battle," Mar-

lins manager Jack McKeon said during the All-Star Game. "Any of those four clubs could win."

The wild-card chase also is wide open, with eight teams within 4½ games of the Giants. That means 12 NL teams still have a real chance to reach the playoffs, making it an exciting second half for fans all over the country.

"It's a wild and wacky league," Sabean said. "This might be the year of the 86- to 88-win division winner. I couldn't even tell you what the record would be of the wild-card winner."

Bonds, 19 homers shy of 700, would like to get a few more pitches in the hot seat of July. He's already drawn 71 intentional walks — three more than the major league record he set two years ago — and 131 walks in all.

That puts him on pace to shat-

ter his big league record of 198 set in 2002. Still, he leads the NL with a .365 batting average and .794 slugging percentage.

Detroit's Ivan Rodriguez, trying to become the first AL catcher to win a batting title, tops the majors with a .369 average.

The 41-year-old Clemens (10-3, 2.62 ERA) also is putting up amazing numbers, especially considering he retired — albeit briefly — after last season. But he has bust in his hometown of Houston in the All-Star Game, giving up six runs in the first inning of the AL's 9-4 victory Tuesday night.

All-Star MVP Alfonso Soriano of the Texas Rangers hit a three-run homer off the Rocket, helping the AL secure home-field advantage in the World Series for the third straight year. Now he'll try to help the upstart Rangers hold off Oakland and Anaheim in the AL West.

Scott Rolen's major league-leading 80 RBIs helped St. Louis sprint past preservation favorites Chicago and Houston to a seven-game lead in the NL Central.

Meanwhile, the Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins are locked up in their annual fight for first in the AL Central.

"This isn't the Florida State League, where the first-half winner automatically gets a berth in the playoffs. We have to keep the pedal to the metal."

Brian Cashman

Yankees general manager

Hot-hitting Sean Casey comes off disabled list

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati Reds first baseman Sean Casey was activated from the 15-day disabled list Thursday after straining his right calf while running out a single June 27.

The move made him available for Thursday night's game against St. Louis.

Casey was among the NL's top hitters with a .352 average when he was injured.

All-Star ratings lowest ever

NEW YORK — Television ratings for the All-Star Game, hurt by the American League's



Briefs

six-run first inning, were the lowest in history.

The American League's 9-4 victory Tuesday night drew an 8.8 rating and a 15 share on Fox, down 7 percent from the 9.5/17 of the last two years — the lowest previous numbers.

The rating is the percentage of all homes with TVs, whether or not they are in use. The share is the percentage of homes with TVs in use. Each rating point represents about 1.08 million households.

Washington mayor optimistic about getting a team

WASHINGTON — District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams returned from baseball's All-Star Game confident that a team would soon be relocating to Washington.

"Baseball belongs in the nation's capital and that's right here in the district," said Williams, who led delegation to Houston for Tuesday night's game.

Baseball officials have said they do not expect to operate the troubled Montreal Expos franchise by running partial sched-

ules in Montreal and Puerto Rico next season. Williams said that while he has heard a decision on the franchise's future could be made by Aug. 18, he also said an announcement could be delayed until after the World Series.

Clark hired by TCL team

MCKINNEY, Texas — Two-time National League All-Star Jack Clark was hired Wednesday as hitting coach for the McKinney Marshalls of the new Texas Collegiate League.

Clark hit 340 homers in 18 big-league seasons with San Francisco, St. Louis, the New York Yankees, San Diego and Boston.

Bryant chooses Lakers

Guard turns down Clippers for deal worth \$136.4 M

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant's journey through free agency ended Thursday where it began — with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant chose the Lakers over the Clippers, remaining with the team he joined in 1996 at age 18 and later helped win three NBA championships.

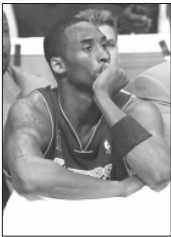
"Kobe has informed us he's going to stay with the Lakers and sign a new contract," Lakers spokesman John Black said Thursday afternoon. The team planned a news conference for later in the day.

The decision came a day after the Lakers traded fellow superstar Shaquille O'Neal to the Miami Heat. Now, it will be Bryant — along with incoming coach Rudy Tomjanovich and Heat imports Lamar Odom, Carlos Butler and Brian Grant — who will be leading them into the future.

Bryant, 25, who said repeatedly this past season he wanted to be a "Laker for life," is poised to fulfill that declaration. His contract will be worth more than \$136.4 million over seven years.

The Lakers had an advantage over the Clippers financially, able to offer a seven-year contract worth \$30 million more than the Clippers could pay him.

Bryant became an unrestricted free agent when, as expected, he opted out of his contract June 17



Despite his legal problems, Lakers guard Kobe Bryant averaged 24.4 points last season.

— the same day O'Neal demanded a trade and Phil Jackson was informed he wouldn't return as coach next season.

Bryant also spoke with representatives of the Chicago Bulls, Denver Nuggets and New York Knicks before narrowing the field to the two Los Angeles teams.

One significant obstacle remains for Bryant before next season. He has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault and faces an Aug. 27 trial in Eagle, Colo. He claims he had consensual sex with an employee, now 20, at the Vail-area resort where she worked.

If convicted, Bryant faces four years in life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine of up to \$750,000.

On Wednesday, a judge refused a defense request to throw out a 75-minute interview of Bryant by detectives and evidence including a T-shirt stained with the alleged victim's blood.

Bryant's attorneys said the material was gathered while he was illegally in custody, but the judge disagreed.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegel said Bryant cooperated with detectives until they said they wanted him to undergo a medical examination. He threw out the results of that exam because the detectives didn't have the proper court order to take him to a hospital in the middle of the night.

Source: Nets' Martin headed to Denver in sign-and-trade

The Associated Press

Kenyon Martin was on the verge of being traded Thursday from the New Jersey Nets to the Denver Nuggets for three future first-round draft picks, a source told The Associated Press.

The deal was the result of several days of on-and-off talks between the teams, the Nuggets successfully resisting New Jersey President Rod Thorn's efforts to acquire Nene as a replacement for Martin at power forward.

The draft picks will include one of the Nuggets' own picks, along with two picks from a pool of three formerly belonging to the Los Angeles Clippers, Washington Wizards and Philadelphia 76ers.

There are varying levels of draft lottery protection on the three picks, though none are protected beyond 2006, according to a source closely involved in the trade discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The trade, expected to be completed later Thursday, will be a sign-and-trade deal — Martin signing a seven-year contract with New Jersey and then immediately being shipped to the Nuggets for the three picks.

Denver can absorb Martin's salary without having to trade any payroll back because it is far enough under the cap to absorb Martin's first-year salary — nearly \$11 million if Martin gets the maximum amount allowed under current bargaining rules.

The Nuggets will still have salary cap space remaining after the trade, though the exact amount will be determined by the structure of Martin's new contract.

Martin, the overall No. 1 pick of the 2000 draft, averaged 16.7 points and 9.5 rebounds last season. He is known as one of league's best defensive forwards.

Martin is a restricted free agent, meaning the Nets have the right to match any offer he receives. But the Nuggets were re-

Briefs

portedly set to offer Martin a front-loaded contract with a hefty signing bonus, and the luxury tax ramifications would have been costly for incoming Nets owner Bruce Ratner.

Agent: Pacers' Harrington to Hawks a done deal

INDIANAPOLIS — A sign-and-trade deal that will send Indiana Pacers forward Al Harrington to the Atlanta Hawks for Stephen Jackson is all but complete.

Harrington's agent, Andy Miller, told The Associated Press his client was in Atlanta on Thursday taking a physical. The Hawks said Jackson was in Indianapolis for the same reason, and once they both passed, the deal would be official.

This sign-and-trade deal, in which Jackson would sign a six-year contract with Atlanta before being traded for Harrington, has been in the works for several days.

Jackson, 26, led the Hawks in scoring last season, averaging 18.1 points. He would give the Pacers the consistent outside scoring threat they have sorely lacked.

Harrington, 24, gets his wish to go to a team where he can have a greater role on both ends of the floor. He averaged 13.3 points in nearly 30 minutes a game last season, but told Pacers president Larry Bird at a season-ending press conference he would rather be traded than come off the bench in Indiana again next season.

Boozer signs jazz's offer sheet

SALT LAKE CITY — Carlos Boozer has signed an offer sheet with the Utah Jazz, and the Cleveland Cavaliers won't try to get him back.

Boozer, who became a restricted free agent when Cleveland made a controversial decision not to pick up his third-year option, signed with the Jazz early Wednesday. He will officially join Utah if Cleveland doesn't match the offer in 15 days, which Cavs owner Gordon Gund said he has no intention of doing.

Turkoglu signs with Magic

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic signed free-agent guard-forward Hedo Turkoglu to an offer sheet Wednesday.

The 6-foot-10 swingman with the San Antonio Spurs signed for six years and \$38 million. The Spurs have 15 days to match the offer or let Turkoglu go to Orlando.

Turkoglu, 25, averaged 9.2 points and 4.5 rebounds last season with the Spurs. He played his first three seasons with the Kings, averaging 7.5 points and 3.4 rebounds.

The first Turkish-born player in the NBA, Turkoglu ranks fourth on Sacramento's career list in three-point field goal percentage.

In other NBA news:

■ The Dallas Mavericks re-signed guard Marquis Daniels on Wednesday to a reported five-year deal that includes a team option for a sixth season that will pay the point guard \$30.625 million.

■ Center Eban Thomas signed an offer sheet with the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday, giving the Washington Wizards until July 29 to match it.

A source close to the negotiations who asked not to be identified told The Associated Press the offer was for six years and more than \$36 million. Thomas made just over \$3 million last season.

The 6-foot-10, 260-pound point player was the 12th overall pick in 2000 by the Dallas Mavericks, who traded him to Washington midway through his rookie year.

Sports briefs

U.S. sprinter Edwards had positive drug test

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Torri Edwards, the second-place finisher in the women's 100 meters in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials, has tested positive for a banned stimulant, the sport's governing body said Thursday.

Edwards tested positive for nikanthamide at a meet in Fort-de-France, Martinique, in April. International Association of Athletics Federations spokesman Nick Davies said.

Analysis of her backup B sample confirmed the positive result, he said.

Edwards' status for the Athens Olympics will be determined at a hearing Monday in the United States, Davies said.

Prosecutor asks to retry Williams where driver slain

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The prosecutor in the Jayson Williams manslaughter case wants to retry the former NBA star in the court where his limousine driver was killed.

In papers filed with the trial judge on Wednesday, First Assistant Hunterdon County Prosecutor Steven Lember argued that the retrial should be moved to Hunterdon County, where Costas Christofi was slain by a blast from a shotgun handled by Williams.

Superior Court Judge Edward Coleman moved the first trial to Somerset County because of extensive pretrial publicity. Christofi died in 2002 in Williams' Alexandria Township mansion.

The 36-year-old Williams was acquitted in April of aggravated

manslaughter, aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, but was convicted on four counts related to his efforts to cover up the shooting.

The jury deadlocked on the remaining reckless manslaughter count and a mistrial was declared. Lember decided to retry the case on that one charge.

The retrial is scheduled to start Jan. 10 in Somerville.

Pirjeta re-signs with Penguins

PITTSBURGH — Forward Leif Pirjeta re-signed with the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday.

Pirjeta performed well after the Penguins picked him up in late-season trade with the Columbus Blue Jackets for Brian Holoinger. The center had six goals and six assists in 13 games with the Penguins over the last two

Blues sign Lalime, Mayers

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Blues signed newly acquired goalie Patrick Lalime to a one-year contract Thursday, avoiding arbitration.

Lalime agreed to a one-year, \$2.9-million deal with a club option for 2005-06 at \$3.2 million.

Nigerian women to play exhibitions in Heidelberg

To prepare for next month's Olympics in Athens, Greece, the Nigerian women's basketball team has scheduled exhibition games at Patton Barracks gym in Heidelberg, Germany, this weekend against teams composed of U.S. military community and European all-stars.

Games are scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday against the U.S. all-stars, and 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday against the European team. Admission is free.

Cincinnati coach Huggins to be reinstated at end of August

From staff and wire reports

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati basketball coach Bob Huggins will be reinstated at the end of August after fulfilling legal requirements stemming from a drunken driving conviction.

"We are satisfied that coach Huggins has taken appropriate steps while under suspension," athletic director Bob Goin said at a news conference Thursday.

He said school president Nancy Zimpher and board of trustees chairman Phil Cox agreed with the decision to end Huggins' suspension Aug. 27.

Huggins was placed on paid, indefinite suspension June 12, following his arrest for driving under the influence.

The 50-year-old coach pleaded no contest, was fined \$350 and given a suspended six-month jail sentence that required him to attend a three-day education course.

Lakers didn't want an older, slower Shaq

L.A. willing to give up star for faster game

BY KEVIN DING

The Orange County Register

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Los Angeles Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak, the man who just made the trade to send the consensus most dominant player of this era away, was saying it himself Wednesday: "You can't replace a Shaquille O'Neal. Period."

So why did Kupchak do it? Why did he deal O'Neal for Lamar Odom, Caron Butler, Brian Grant and a first-round pick in 2006 or later? Because the projection that he and Lakers owner Jerry Buss have is that O'Neal, 32, will be outrageously overpriced and is only growing older and slower. The Lakers want to be young and fast, which 24-year-old incoming players Odom and Butler are.

"We'd like to increase the tempo of the game," Kupchak said, "have a different style of play, more up and down, more athletic, and basically go to a younger team versus a team that was more regimented into a system and that was aging."

Whether the Lakers can win big with this new style that fits new coach Rudy Tomjanovich more than Phil Jackson is largely tied to Kobe Bryant's free-agent decision, expected on Thursday. Kupchak acknowledged that losing O'Neal — the first-team All-NBA center the past five seasons — could be viewed as an immediate step back. Kupchak asked that the trade be judged "in three or four years."

"It's kind of a rebuild, hopefully a rebuild that will bring us to a position where we'll be competitive very quickly," Kupchak said.



Shaquille O'Neal drives to the basket between Lamar Odom, left and Brian Grant in this 2003 photo. The Lakers and Heat finalized a trade Wednesday sending O'Neal to Miami in exchange for Caron Butler, Odom, Grant and a first-round draft pick.

"And not just competitive in making a playoff position, but competitive in advancing in the playoffs."

In an ESPN interview, O'Neal said: "A lot of people say, 'He's older' ... but guess what? In the East, it's not the same as the West. So guess what that means for the Diesel? More rest, more mileage ... I'm happy."

Back in February, Kupchak assumed this day would come once negotiations on a contract extension for O'Neal veered too far off track.

"We made what we considered a very fair offer that would continue to make him the highest-paid player in the NBA," Kupchak said Wednesday.

O'Neal wanted even more, and his hope is that he'll get it from Miami Heat owner Mickey Arison, also owner of Carnival Cruise Lines.

Arison already believes O'Neal is worth mammoth numbers — he's due \$27.6 million and \$30.5 million in the next two seasons, by far the largest salaries in the

league for coming seasons. And the Heat hopes O'Neal — who is expected to wear No. 32, his old Orlando number, in Miami — will bring the franchise to the NBA Finals for the first time.

"We feel that we have traded for the best player in the NBA," Heat President Pat Riley said.

O'Neal does have an ongoing problem with his right foot in which he can't flex and bend the big toe. Before his 2002 procedure to shave down that joint, some doctors believed O'Neal would always have problems with most drastic biomechanical surgery. A variety of leg and foot ailments, mostly stemming from his right foot, limited O'Neal to 67 games each of the past three seasons.

He averaged a career-low 21.5 points last season and did not rule the postseason in his usual way despite fewer double-team defenses against him than usual.

But in eight years with the Lakers, O'Neal averaged 24.2 points, 10.4 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 2.2 blocks in 514 regular-season games.

In 100 playoff games, he averaged 29.1 points, 13.4 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.5 blocks. He was the 2000 NBA MVP and the NBA Finals MVP in 2000, '01 and '02 as the Lakers won three consecutive championships.

It was that level of service, according to Kupchak, that made the Lakers — to accommodate O'Neal's desire to be traded to a warm-weather, contending team.

"He's earned that favor, so to speak, from us," Kupchak said. "And we were fortunate that there was a team that had a couple of players that fit what we were looking to do."

O'Neal had threatened to opt out of his contract after next season if he was sent somewhere he deemed undesirable. Kupchak said he wanted to get the deal done as soon as possible not to cater to Bryant in shipping out his

sometimes-rival, but so the Lakers would know how best to proceed with their offseason business.

They want another center besides Grant and are interested in Wade Davis and Chris Mihm; Mihm is a restricted free agent, and the Boston Celtics have indicated they'll match any offer Miami receives. The Lakers have their \$4.9 million mid-level salary-cap exception to spend.

The Lakers also hope to re-sign Derek Fisher and Gary Mvedveton, who are free agents. Kupchak said guard Gary Payton's agent, Aaron Goodwin, said Payton is not eager to leave the Lakers and intends to speak with Tomjanovich soon. Of Karl Malone, whose Lakers likely would re-sign at \$1.1 million, Kupchak said: "I believe Karl wants to play ... I think he's intrigued by the roster we may have, so I think there is a chance, maybe even better than usual, chance, that we bring him back. We want him back."

In any circumstance, the Lakers are expecting Odom, a 6-foot-10 player with point-guard skills, to be a focal point after last year in Miami altering his history of unprofessional behavior.

"We have noticed a great maturity in his play and his ability off the court to make good decisions," Kupchak said.

Odom has never been an All-Star, but the Lakers believe he will be many times in the future. Butler, 6-7, has averaged 25 points and 1.5 steals in two NBA seasons and was for a time considered a rival draft prospect to Yao Ming before going 10th overall in 2002.

"We're in a position to prosper here for at least another 10 years," Kupchak said. "We do want to avoid the point that you just get to where the wheel just falls apart, and you have to go through a six-to-seven-year rebuilding period. We've never done that here, and our fans deserve a little bit more than that."

Nuggets, Spurs build promising futures with young talent

BY SAM SMITH

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Although the Shaquille O'Neal trade was the headline of the NBA's first day of free-agent signings and trades, there was considerable other activity.

Here's an early look at the winners and losers:

Winners

Miami Heat: Does anyone think club president Pat Riley would have given up coaching if he thought this was remotely possible a year ago? With the new alignment, Miami could win its division by 30 games. Look for O'Neal to have a great and healthy season after some questionable injuries in recent years.

But can he carry a team and his weight for long?

Denver Nuggets: They probably will pick off Kenyon Martin. Their \$82-million offer probably won't be matched by the Cleveland budget-conscious New Jersey Nets. And the Nuggets are putting together the kind of young, promising team that could lure a coach like, say, Phil Jackson,

Analysis

Tony Parker and sensational Manu Ginobili. They look like the only NBA team capable of establishing a dynasty. Karl Malone said he also is considering signing there.

Detroit Pistons: They retained their core and are expected to re-sign Rasheed Wallace after letting Mehmet Okur go to the Utah Jazz, with whom he signed an offer sheet. The Pistons agreed to terms with former All-Star Antonio McDyess and Phoenix will not match.

Utah Jazz: They got Carlos Boozer apparently to go back on his wink deal with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who said they will not match the Jazz's \$68-million offer sheet. They're not in position to be championship contenders, but they'll be competitive.

Phoenix Suns: Perhaps they overspent somewhat for the 30-year-old Steve Nash at about \$15 million a year, but they get popular All-Star guard, and they signed Chicagoan Quentin Richardson to an offer sheet worth about \$48 million.

It's said to be questionable whether the Clippers will match it even if they can't get Kobe Bryant.

Houston Rockets: They are not the league, division or even Texas favorites. But, in bringing in Tracy McGrady with Yao Ming they have two potential big-time stars around whom a team can build something.

The free agents: Many of these players are virtual unknowns but they received contracts worth tens of millions of dollars — Evan Thomas (\$38 million), Brian Cardinal (\$39 million), Rafer Alston (\$29 million), Stephen Jackson (\$44 million), Mark Blount (\$42 million), Adonal Foyle (\$42 million), Marquis Daniels (\$31 million), Brian Skinner (\$25 million), Hedo Turkoglu (\$38 million), Michael DeLoe (\$12 million), Troy Hudson (\$31 million).

Losers

Los Angeles Clippers: This could change, but the odds are they won't get Bryant and they let McGrady slip through. Perhaps they'll make a run at Vince Carter, who is available. They will try to get a shooting guard to replace Richardson.

New Jersey Nets: They probably will

lose Martin, which probably will lead to trade talks for Jason Kidd all moving to Brooklyn and soon to start over.

Toronto Raptors: Rafer Alston? Yes, he had a nice comeback season, but it seems like they're looking hard to deal Carter. Though there's no reason for untouchables after another losing season.

Dallas Mavericks: They lost Nash and lost out on O'Neal, which should make them third in Texas with Marquis Daniels the floor leader.

Cleveland Cavaliers: Can't this city get a break? The woes of Cleveland sports teams are legendary, and now that the Cavs are on the brink of success with LeBron James, they lose Boozer.

Jamal Crawford: That \$60-million deal and trade with the New York Knicks seems less likely, which would put him (and the Bulls) in the uncomfortable position of playing for a contract next season.

Other free agents who also are being left out are Erick Dampier, who gave up \$17 million over the last two seasons to become a free agent, Wade Davis, talking of a return to the Lakers, Darius Miles, Derek Fisher, Toni Kukoc and Stromile Swift.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Expanding the family business

Casey Mears shifts smoothly from Indy cars to Nextel Cup

BY NANCY ARMOUR
The Associated Press

Casey Mears and his team expected to make progress this year. But this much? This soon? Three years after switching to NASCAR from open-wheel racing, Mears is showing that his family's illustrious history isn't limited to Indy cars.

In only his second full season in NASCAR's top series, Mears already has seven top 10 finishes and has climbed to 16th in the Nextel Cup driver standings.

"We felt like he'd be way better off than he was last year, but we never expected where he's running now," said Andy Graves, team manager for Chip Ganassi Racing.

This kind of leap would be impressive for any young driver. But consider that Mears never even thought about racing stock cars until 2001, and what he's doing is downright amazing.

There was never any question that Mears, 26, would race open-wheel cars. His uncle Rick won the Indianapolis 500 a record four times, and his father, Roger, was an off-road champion.

Casey Mears was racing go-karts when he was 12, and quickly graduated to off-road. After a few years, he ran Formula LeMans and the Indy Lights series. Then it was on to CART and the Indy Racing League.

"I never dreamed of my coming to NASCAR. I just knew he was going to open-wheel racing," Roger Mears said. "When the sanctioning bodies split up and they started another open-wheel series, that whole open-wheel scene just started to fall apart."



Casey Mears, son of an off-road champion and nephew of four-time Indy 500 winner Rick Mears, is making his mark in stock cars.

There weren't any opportunities over there."

After the 2001 season, Casey Mears had offers from CART and IRL, as well as an opportunity to drive in NASCAR's Busch Series. Not sure which open-wheel series was going to survive, Mears decided to try stock car racing.

"I thought, I'll try it out and if it doesn't work, in a year or two I'll go back to open-wheel when I know which direction is going to be the right direction to go," Mears said.

But the transition wasn't easy. Going from an open-wheel car to a stock car isn't like switching

from a Ford to a Honda. More like a sports car to a semi-truck.

He finished 21st with two top 10 finishes in his first Busch season, and figured his jump to NASCAR's top series was a year or two away. But when Ganassi fired Jimmy Spencer, he took a gamble on Mears.

"Last year was a huge learning year for me," Mears said. "I was struggling as far as just learning so much, from the tracks to the guys that I'm racing against to how stock cars in general want to respond to change and how they work."

"Not only was I learning how to

compete at this level, but also learning stock cars as a basic," he said. "I mean I was learning stuff last year that guys learned in late models, when they're 18 years old, 16 years old."

The struggles were evident — but so was the talent. Though he was 35th in the standings, he had five top 10 finishes.

When this season began, it was as if Mears had been driving stock cars his entire career. He finished seventh at Las Vegas, the third race of the year, and led 34 laps at Atlanta before his engine failed.

The biggest difference has

been in Mears' knowledge of his car and comfort level with his crew. Last year, he could tell crew chief Jimmy Elledge that something was wrong with the front of his car, but couldn't get much more specific than that.

Mears can now explain exactly what is happening, and he and Elledge have developed a rapport that has translated into success on the track.

"The open-wheel guys, when they make the transition over here, once they learn what the car needs to feel like to be competitive — which sometimes might take a year or two or three years — once they figure that out, I think they do really well," Graves said.

Now that Mears has it figured out, he'd like to extend his family's success to a third series.

"I want to go to the Indy 500 someday, I really do," he said. "Other than that, even if that series got strong again, I wouldn't want to go back in that direction full time. I'm pretty happy where I am."

Andy Graves

Manager, Chip Ganassi Racing

"The open-wheel guys, when they make the transition over here, once they learn what the car needs to feel like to be competitive — which sometimes might take a year or two or three years — once they figure that out, I think they do really well."

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Last race: Tony Stewart won the Coca-Cola 400 at Charlotte Speedway, but it was marred by a wreck with rookie Casey Kahne that touched off a fight in the pits. Following a restart, Stewart tapped race-leader Kahne and sent him into the wall. NASCAR fined Tommy Baldwin, Kahne's crew chief, \$10,000 and put him on probation for his role in the fight.

Next race: New England 300, July 25, Loudon, N.H.

POINTS RACE

After 18 of 36 races

1. Jimmie Johnson	2,720	11. Jeremy Mayfield	2,108
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,615	12. Dale Jarrett	2,083
3. Jeff Gordon	2,478	13. Jamie McMurray	2,068
4. Tony Stewart	2,418	14. Casey Kahne	2,044
5. Matt Kenseth	2,321	15. Mark Martin	2,035
6. Bobby Labonte	2,278	16. Casey Mears	1,998
7. Elliott Sadler	2,252	17. Rusty Wallace	1,965
8. Kevin Harvick	2,229	18. Michael Waltrip	1,960
9. Kurt Busch	2,211	19. Sterling Marlin	1,941
10. Ryan Newman	2,173	20. Brian Vickers	1,913

BUSCH SERIES

Last race: With his father, Terry, looking on, Justin Labonte got his first Busch victory, at the Tropicana Twister 300 in Joliet, Ill. Labonte took the lead on the final lap after Mike Wallace ran out of gas.

Next race: New England 200, July 24, Loudon, N.H.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais led all but nine of the 84 laps and won the Grand Prix of Toronto for his third straight victory. Canadian Paul Tracy had trouble the entire race, crashing twice and being penalized twice by race officials.

Next race: July 25, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

INDY RACING

This week: Firestone Indy 200 in Gladwin, Tenn. Livesi 1 a.m. Sunday, AFX-Sports.

Last race: Buddy Rice edged Rahal team's Ryan Marini by .003 seconds — the second-closest margin in series history — to win the Ayrault Memorial Indy 300 at Kansas Speedway.

Last year: Van Glascoff, caused by Buddy Lazier in the final six laps helped Ed de Ferris win the Firestone Indy 200. The Brazilian won after Lazier brushed the outside wall in turn 2 just as de Ferris was taking the white flag for the final lap.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: Dodge Dealers Ram Tough 200 in Madison, Ill. Tape-delayed, noon Sunday, AFX-Sports.

Last race: Bobby Hamilton became

the series' first three-time winner of 304 with his victory in the Bull First Tough 225 at Kentucky Speedway. The race started 15 minutes before dark, and the first 11 laps were run under caution as the trucks helped dry the track.

Last year: Brendan Gaughan held off Jason Leffler by a truck length to win the Dodge Ram Tough 200. Gaughan, who qualified his Dodge to the front for the final time on the 5th of 160 laps, led the rest of the 200-mile race for his third victory of 2003.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Michael Schumacher won the 16th time in 11 races with his victory in the British Grand Prix and moved into a record of 11 wins in 2003. His only loss of driver's victory in 2003 was the Spanish Grand Prix.

Next race: German Grand Prix, July 25, Hockenheim.



What's your Scene?

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FITNESS**

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SPORTS



GM defends Shaq trade;
Bryant reportedly staying
with Lakers, Pages 32, 33

The Open's leading men

Levet, Casey tame docile Troon with opening 66s

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — A double eagle from Gary Evans, the rarest shot in golf. An ace from Ernie Els on the Postage Stamp, one of the most famous par 3s in the world.

The British Open was barely three hours old Thursday when it became clear that Royal Troon, without its fierce winds whipping off the Irish Sea, was in a generous mood.

By the end of the day, however, it wasn't spectacular shots that landed Paul Casey and Thomas Levet on top of the leader board at 5-under 66 — just solid golf on links that might not get easier. They had a one-shot lead over New Zealand's Michael Campbell.

"If you start thinking about what you've got to shoot, then it starts to get very, very difficult," Casey said.

It was plenty tough for Tiger Woods, who kept his round from getting away with two key par saves and wound up with a 70, the first time he has broken par in the opening round of a major since the 2002 PGA Championship.

"As easy as you'll ever see it," Woods said about Royal Troon.

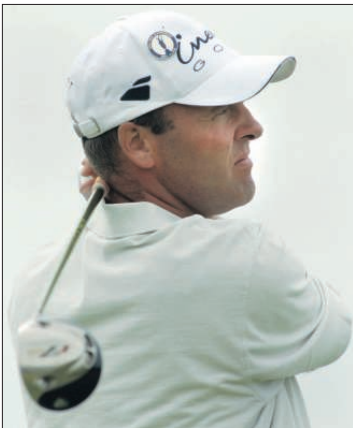
Masters champion Phil Mickelson played in the tannest conditions, but could manage only a 73.

Casey, a 26-year-old from England, played in the same group with Mickelson and put on a good show, finishing with birdies on two of the last three holes and raising hopes of a British gallery that has gone five years without one of its own holding the claret jug.

"I still left quite a few shots on the golf course," Casey said. "It could have been very, very low."

Evans and Els had the same thing in mind.

Evans had 227 yards to the hole



Frenchman Thomas Levet qualified for the British Open by winning last week's Scottish Open. He made six birdies in the opening round.

on the par-5 fourth hole when his 5-iron ambled up a ridge on the green and disappeared into the cup for a double eagle. It was the first albatross in the British Open since Greg Owen in 2001 at Royal

Lytham & St. Annes.

"I gave myself three chances the first three holes, and I didn't make any of them," Evans said. "And when I brought one in, it was fantastic. Happy days."



Tiger Woods had his best opening round (70) in a major since last year's U.S. Open. The last time he broke 70 in the first round of a major was the 2002 U.S. Open.



Paul Casey of England, above, outplayed playing partner Phil Mickelson by seven shots on Thursday and finished his round with a birdie.

Evans made no more progress the rest of the day, however, and finished at 3-under 68 along with a large group that included Vijay Singh and British Amateur champion Stuart Wilson.

Els also was plodding along when his fortunes changed with one swing, a pitching wedge from 123 yards on the par-5 eighth hole known as the Postage Stamp because of its tiny green.

"That was beautiful, I tell you," Els said.

He had other words to describe another par 3, the 222-yard 17th where the South African left a shot in the bunker for a double bogey.

"From such a highlight on 8 to such a lowlight on 17, it's amazing," Els said. "But I shot 69 and I've got to take that. Anything under 70 is good in a major championship. It's not a bad start."

A dozen other players were at

69, including U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, Darren Clarke, former PGA champion Rich Beem and Colin Montgomerie, who overcame a double bogey-bogey stretch around the turn.

Levet had no complaints about his round because he never expected to be here.

A runner-up to Els after the British Open playoff at Muirfield two years ago, the Frenchman wasn't eligible and mapped out a vacation for this week. Those plans changed when he won the Scottish Open four days ago, closing with a 63 to earn one of the final spots at Royal Troon.

He flew home to France to get new clothes, work in the garden and feed his fish.

"I just showed up here on Tuesday and I was feeling fresh," he said. "And it was nice."

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Razing Arizona: Wide-open pennant races could turn on the winner of the Big Unit sweepstakes

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Racing Stripes: Casey carving new niche for Mears family

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Irked Armstrong accuses French TV crew of trying to search his room for drug evidence

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